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MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016

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**Power struggle
seen at the
heart of Kuwait
sports saga**



**Buses enter
rebel Aleppo
to resume
evacuations**



**Venezuela
delays removing
currency bills
amid protests**



**Real survive
scare to win
club cup with
Ronaldo treble**



MPS CALL TO AMEND SPORTS LAWS TO END SUSPENSIONS

OPPOSITION MPS WARN PM OVER CITIZENSHIPS, UTILITY CHARGES



Min 06°
Max 18°
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02:20 & 16:31
Low Tide
09:52 & 21:59



CANADIAN TOURIST AMONG 10 KILLED IN JORDAN ATTACKS

AMMAN: Gunmen killed 10 people including a Canadian tourist and police officers yesterday in southern Jordan where security forces were hunting down the unidentified attackers. The shootings took place in Karak, a tourist destination known for one of the biggest Crusader castles in the region, around 120 km south of the capital Amman. Jordan's general security department said seven policemen, a female Canadian tourist and two Jordanian civilians were killed in a series of shootings. It said that 27 others, including policemen and civilians, were wounded. A separate police statement said that "a number of outlaws who committed ugly crimes this afternoon" had been killed and that security forces were combing the Crusader castle for more gunmen.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences yesterday to King Abdullah II of Jordan. The Amir expressed his sincere condolences and sorrow over the tragic shooting attack in Karak. He confirmed Kuwait's strong condemnation and rejection of such terrorist acts which targeted innocent lives, reiterating Kuwait's full solidarity with the kingdom and support of all measures by the Jordanian government to preserve the safety and stability of the country.

Continued on Page 13

IS BLAST KILLS 52 YEMENI SOLDIERS



ADEN: Yemenis gather at the Al-Sawlaba base in Aden's Al-Arish district yesterday, after a suicide bomber targeted a crowd of soldiers. — AFP (See Page 13)

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Eleven opposition MPs yesterday demanded an emergency session in the Assembly to debate a solution on how to end the international suspension of Kuwait's sports bodies. The lawmakers said they want the session to be held on Wednesday, just two days before an ultimatum given to Kuwait to rectify its sport legislations to be able to take part in qualifications for the 2019 Asian football cup.

MPs said in the motion that Kuwait was barred from international sports over a year ago because of a number of local legislations issued since 2013 that violate international sports charters. During the opening session of the Assembly on Dec 11, lawmakers passed a recommendation calling on the government to take necessary steps to lift the freeze on Kuwaiti sports.

Minister of Information and Youth Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said the government is prepared to sit with the International Olympic Committee or world football governing body FIFA or any other side to settle the issue, provided that this does not breach the Kuwaiti constitution or sovereignty. At least three opposition MPs have threatened to grill Sheikh Salman over the sports issue, unless the government adopts the necessary measures to end the suspension, which was imposed in Oct 2015.

The opposition lawmakers also submitted a draft law calling to scrap all controversial sports laws issued in 2013, 2014, 2015 and earlier this year that were cited by world sport bodies as violating international charters. The lawmakers want to revive a 2012 legislation that was in line with the international sports law in a bid to end the suspension.

Continued on Page 13

CONDOLENCES

**Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief,
management and staff**

convey their deepest condolences to

Al-Maousherji family

on the sad demise of

Mohammed Saqer Al-Maousherji

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on him



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem and members of the National Assembly Office for the first regular session of the 15th Legislative Term. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem and members of the National Assembly Office for the first regular session of the 15th Legislative Term.

AMIR, CP MEET SPEAKER, ASSEMBLY OFFICE MEMBERS



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Vice Commander of Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received at Bayan Palace National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem and members of the National Assembly Office for the first regular session of the 15th Legislative Term.

The newly-formed office includes Deputy Speaker MP Essa Ahmad Al-Kandari, National Assembly's Secretary MP Dr Ouda Al-Rowaei, Controller Naif Abdulaziz Al-Ajmi, head of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee MP Mohammad Hussein Al-Dallal, head of the Priorities Committee MP Thamer Saad Al-Suwaid and Secretary General MP Allam Ali Al-Kandari. Speaker Ghanem and the office members later met with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir met with His Highness the Crown

Prince, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Premier Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and Vice Commander of Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Khaled Al-Saleh, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



KUWAIT: Secretary General of Awqaf Mohammad Al-Jalahmah attends the news conference. —KUNA

KUWAIT HOSTS MEETING ON AWQAF CULTURE THIS WEEK

KUWAIT: Kuwait witnesses later this week the 23rd Al-Awqaf Meeting, patronized by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and aimed at promoting the country's contributions to Awqaf culture.

The meeting, scheduled on Tuesday and Wednesday, contributes to bringing into light the State of Kuwait contributions in the realm of Awqaf culture and the impact on Islamic communities, said Mohammad Al-Jalahmah, the Secretary General of Awqaf, at

a news conference on the planned event, held yesterday.

The scheduled meeting will be "within framework of discussing the State of Kuwait role in Islamic culture as it has been proclaimed the Capital of Islamic Culture (2016)," Jalahmah said. It will comprise a large number of public authorities and NGOs and focus on the State cultural projects, as part of the Islamic Awqaf in the Islamic World's coordination, undertaken by the secretariat, he explained.

The State of Kuwait, namely the Secretary General possesses the world's largest information infrastructure in Awqaf culture, including all realms; legal, administrative and entrepreneurial. Jalahmah added that the conferees would shed light on the secretariat's role in serving the Islamic nation and a sideline exhibition will display publications about these Kuwaiti services. Elaborating, the official indicated that the participants in the meeting will also discuss some Awqaf issues in the virtual world. —KUNA

KUWAIT DISTRIBUTES 6,000 BLANKETS TO DISPLACED IRAQIS

IRBIL: Kuwait has provided around 6,000 blankets for displaced Iraqis, many of whom have fled a war zone in the northern city of Mosul. Speaking yesterday, Kuwait's Consul General in Irbil Omar Al-Kandari said that as temperatures continue to plummet to single digits, such items as blankets are a necessity to help these displaced people stay warm.

On the aid, he said that the families residing in camps have been provided with a pair of blankets per family, noting that such measures reinforce Kuwait's solidarity with Iraq as the country goes

through trying times. He also underscored that such humanitarian aid will continue to meet the needs of a growing number of displaced people.

Meanwhile, an official from Al-Barzani Chairty, Ismail Abdulaziz said that Kuwait's aid represents a benevolent deed, noting that freezing temperatures will only exacerbate the misery these displaced people are living in. Kuwait had previously distributed 3000 heaters to displaced Iraqis, in addition to food rations as part of an aid package earmarked for the war-torn nation. —KUNA



KUWAIT ROLE MODEL FOR HEALTH CARE IN DETENTION PLACES: ICRC

KUWAIT: Kuwait is the only Arab country that directly designates the Ministry of Health to provide health care in places of detention, said Coordinator of the International Committee of the Red Cross' (ICRC) protection department Ralph Wehbe yesterday. Wehbe in statement during the second GCC workshop on health care in detention held recently in Kuwait praised the unique and leading experience of Kuwait in this regard.

The ICRC is carrying out its own activities in places of detention in Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar, under bilateral agreements with the relevant authorities, pointing out that it has

been working in Kuwait since the Gulf War (1990-1991). He also said that the ICRC's regional delegation covers the needs of the GCC countries resulting from war, armed conflicts and ongoing violence in the region.

Meanwhile, Dr Feras Abu Samra, a doctor in charge of health in detention at the ICRC said the workshop aims to exchange experiences and discuss common challenges in dealing with some issues related to psychological health in detention, adding that this workshop came after the first workshop which was held in Kuwait in November 2014. —KUNA

EXPERTS CALL FOR SPEEDY ESTABLISHMENT OF GCC BOURSE

SLOVENIA PRAISED FOR HOSTING CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: Economic experts have called for establishing hastily a common GCC bourse saying it is necessary to cope with 'future challenges' and complete economic merger of the Council's member states. The experts propose allotting \$1 trillion as market value of the aspired stock exchange and enacting legislations and rules for the common bourse.

Mohammad Zainal, Chairman and Managing Director of Arzan Financial Group, expressed his belief that such a market could attract high financial liquidity and lure foreign investors as well as family companies, thus boosting confidence in the GCC economy.

Mohammad Al-Naqi, Chairman of the Kuwaiti Industries Company, said the proposed stock exchange would enhance the Gulf economy, namely the companies with high credit status; namely

the banks, communication and logistics' companies.

Salah Al-Sultan, advisor at Arzaq Capital, agreed that such a market should be formed quickly for it would furnish traders with better opportunities to trade in diverse stocks, "as well as opening new horizons for companies operating in feasible sectors namely tourism and technology." It can also play a key role in nationalizing investments and luring foreign enterprises. Maltham Al-Shakhs, the former CEO of Al-Arabi Brokerage Company, said such a project would require law enforcement, methods of arbitration and specifying financing rules.

Director General of the Mina Financial and Economic Consultation Company Adnan Al-Dulaimi said setting up such a market serves the GCC leaders' objective of boosting mutual economic cooperation among the member

countries of the council. For his part, Mohammad Al-Tarrah of the Traders Society advised the investors to wait for establishing this market so they could have access to stocks of Gulf companies.

GCC-Slovenian Conference

Separately, GCC Secretary-General Abdullahif Al-Zayani praised the Slovenian Foreign Ministry's initiative in organizing the first-ever GCC-Slovenian Conference. Al-Zayani made this remarks in a statement at the conclusion of the GCC-Slovenian Conference that ended this weekend in Ljubljana, Slovenia, stressing the keenness of both sides to develop bilateral relations in the future.

In a short period of time, Slovenia was able to achieve significant and tangible achievements in building a modern state and to join the European Union in 2004, the

GCC Chief added. He pointed out that the conference tackled important issues including the national visions for development, climate change and renewable energy sources, and international development cooperation.

Meanwhile, State Secretary Darja Bavdaz Kuret praised the Kuwaiti-Slovenian talks, adding that both sides discussed ways to provide solid grounds for the two nations to pursue more cooperation in the near future.

A high-level Kuwaiti delegation headed by Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for GCC Affairs Ambassador Nasser Al-Mezyen, comprises Kuwait's Ambassador to Austria and permanent envoy to international organizations Sadiq Marafie and representative of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) Sheikh Ahmad Ali Al-Sabah and other diplomats. —KUNA

3,000 STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ART COMPETITION, UNDER THE SLOGAN OF 'COLOURS OF AUSTRALIA'

SPONSORED BY VIVA, ACK • HOSTED BY CROWNE PLAZA

KUWAIT: Supported by the Australian Embassy, in cooperation with the Kuwait Times, the embassy is proud to launch the "Colours of Australia" drawing competition for students in Kuwait. The competition will have students in Kuwait learn more about different countries, cultures and civilizations, and to identify communities in other parts of the world through arts. The theme for the Arts competition is "Colours of Australia" to encourage students to express their

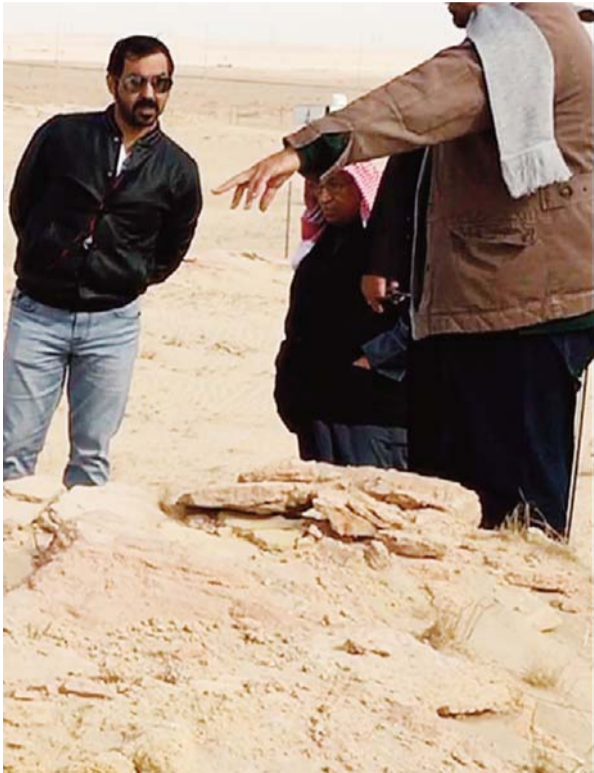
knowledge of Australia by drawing an icon, a natural scene, or any other expression they would find suitable. The competition is still open for all schools who want to participate.

The drawing competition is held from December 12, 2016 till January 26, 2017 for a period of forty six days, allowing participants from government, special needs, private schools and bilingual schools enough time to submit their work.

At the due date, the drawing sheets will be collected by Kuwait Times, and a jury of professional artists will be selected from the Kuwait Arts Association, who will choose the top ten winners of each age group. The contest is open to both boys and girls as follows: Elementary (6-9 years) Intermediate (11-13 years), Secondary (14 years and above), in addition to schools of special needs.

Valuable prizes, including phones and

tablets, will be awarded to the top 10 entrants in each category. Three major winners will be selected in each category who will be given a plaque and major prizes, while the remaining seven runners-up will receive certificates and prizes. A certificate will also be given to the school as recognition of honourable participation. The competition is sponsored by VIVA and the Australian College of Kuwait, with the awards event to be hosted by Crowne Plaza Hotel "Al-Thuraya City".



KUWAIT: Kuwait University history and antiquities professors and students examine a site in Subbiya where they say ancient remains were found. —Photos by Hanan Al-Saadoun



ANCIENT REMAINS FOUND IN SUBBIYA

COULD BE OLDER THAN FAILAKA RUINS: PROFESSOR

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Kuwait University (KU) professors believe that remnants found recently at an area located north of Kuwait could even be older than Failaka's ruins, which date back to as early as 2,000 BC. The remnants found recently in Subbiya likely belong to civilizations that existed in the area, as they include what could be grave yards of nobles. "Through the science of antiquities, it became clear the area was inhabited because of the temple graveyards and houses "found there)," said Dr Ahmad Saeed, a history professor at KU.

Dr Saeed was one of many professors who accompanied history and antiquities students in a trip organized by the history department at KU to Subbiya last Saturday. Other professors include Dr Sultan Al-Duwaish, Researcher Dr Fahad Al-Wuhaibi, Dr Sayyed Mahfouz, Dr Faisal Al-Wazzan, Dr Ahmad Al-Hassan, Dr Hamad Al-Qahtani and Dr Mai Al-Shawad. Head of history department Dr Abdallah Al-Hajiri was also present.

Meanwhile, Dr Duwaish said that ostrich eggs were found in large quantities at the site, in addition to beads and small amounts of clay. He said a seal was found that dates to the fourth millennium BC. History and antiquities experts will continue working on the site with hopes of revealing more information about the civilizations that could have inhabited the area, Dr Duwaish explained.



Dr Sultan Al-Duwaish speaks during the students' visit.



KUWAIT EXECUTES 150 PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH IN EARLY 2017: OFFICIAL 'KUWAIT IS UN PARTNER IN YOUTH SECTOR'



KUWAIT: The United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth Ahmad Al-Hendawi speaks during a meeting in Kuwait. —KUNA

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Youth (PAY) is set to execute about 150 programs for youth activities early 2017. The plan will be executed in cooperation with different ministries and the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), said the authority's Director-General Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi in a press statement yesterday.

The programs will allow youth of all talents to express their creativity and abilities in an encouraging environment, he said. Meanwhile, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health (MoH) for Medical Services Dr Mohammad Al-Khashti said the ministry is taking part in the plan by holding training courses on first aid and seminars on healthy eating and fighting obesity.

Partner

Separately, a UN envoy has lauded Kuwait's leading status in supporting the youth saying the country is a



Director General of the Public Authority for Youth (PAY) Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi

'partner' with the international organization at this level. Kuwait is among the top states in empowering the youth and providing them with incentives, said the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth,

Ahmad Al-Hendawi, in a statement yesterday.

He was speaking on the heels of a meeting that grouped him with officials from the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs and the Public Authority for Youth (PAY), discussing the national youth policy and designating the country as the Arab Youth Capital (2017) by the Arab League.

The UN is tied with a 'strategic partnership' with the ministry, he said, noting that Kuwait is ahead of other Arab countries in the youth sphere, he said. The international organization views Kuwait as a minaret for supporting youth enterprise, he added, lauding the Kuwaiti leaders who believe in the young citizens' potentials.

UN branch offices in Kuwait closely cooperate with the local authorities concerned with the juniors' affairs, he elaborated, noting that the UN and Kuwait have been bonded with an accord to enhance international action for the youth. —KUNA

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In Brief

AMIR CONGRATULATES
BAHRAIN PM

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable yesterday to Bahraini Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, congratulating him on the recent successful medical tests. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent the Bahraini premier cables of similar sentiments. — KUNA



AMIR CONGRATULATES QATAR

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations yesterday to Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on the occasion of his country's national day. His Highness praised the comprehensive accomplishments of Qatar under the wise leadership of Sheikh Tamim. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. — KUNA



CLOSER ARAB COOPERATION

CAIRO: Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab Affairs Ambassador Azeez Al-Daihani said yesterday that Kuwait is keen on promoting and propping up cooperation and coordination among Arab countries. He made the remark in a statement on the sidelines of a joint meeting of senior Arab and EU officials. Daihani, who led the Kuwaiti delegation, said Kuwait is always interested in continuing strategic dialogue between the Arab League and the European Union (EU). —KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A photo taken from inside the Coptic Orthodox Church in Kuwait. Churches in Kuwait prepare to host Christmas mass ceremonies this year amid tightened security measures. — KUNA photo

KFH STARTS OPERATING
LARGEST ATM SYSTEMS'
NETWORK FOR THE BLIND

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the commencement of operation of 10 ATMs provided specially for the blind in various areas of Kuwait in appreciation of their conditions and difficulties and to ensure that they avail the best service that suits their circumstances.

Deputy General Manager at KFH Khaled Al-Subaie stated in a press release that KFH is keen on providing banking services to various tiers of customers and provide all means to obtain such services smoothly and easily, especially customers with special needs. Accordingly, KFH has commenced the operation of 10 ATMs which are allocated specially for blind people in its branches in Keefan - Rawda - Shaab - Zahraa - Mubarak Al-Kabeer - Dhaher - Fahaheel - Rihab - Saad Al-Abdullah and Jahraa, Mikhyal Mall. He indicated that ATM machines were distributed in various areas of the country in order to serve the largest number of customers bearing in mind that such machines have highly sophisticated specifications to suite blind peoples' needs.

Subaie emphasized that the machines have common specifications, i.e. enable the blind to write by using Braille letters, taking voice instructions to facilitate procedures for all users. ATM machines are placed in easy to reach locations to ensure that users do not suffer any difficulties, bearing in mind that the machines are fully secured and monitored.

He added that KFH is the leading bank where ATMs are concerned. With the operation of these machines KFH becomes the leading bank in providing ATM machines for the blind. He reiterated that KFH continues to adopt the latest developments in technological infrastructure to better serve its customers and implement the diversification and comprehensiveness. Technology and machinery have become an added value for quick banking and one of the basic requirements of customers.

KFH sophisticated ATM systems provide various advantages, e.g. opening investment deposits, cash withdrawal service, balance inquiries, short and instant account statement, cheque books, cash deposit for retail and corporate customers.



Khaled Al-Subaie

BOULEVARD LAUNCHES SEASON ACTIVITIES

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Boulevard launched its activities for the current season, the higher organizing committee announced during a press conference yesterday. Adwan Al-Adwani, Chairman of the Al-Salmiya Group Company for Enterprise Development, noted that Boulevard provides activities for all age categories. "We are going to kick off our educational activities in order to entertain and motivate citizens and residents of all ages."

Adwani noted that the company's management has prepared educational and entertainment programs for the entire year, as well as tourist programs for entrepreneurs from inside and outside Kuwait. He asked government organizations to support young people to establish small and medium enterprises and to adopt Kuwaiti youth projects at Boulevard. "As part of our social responsibility, we have a 'Lobby' project that provides stores of suitable space at nominal rent to encourage small enterprises by young Kuwaitis and help them launch their projects," he added.

He said that Salmiya Group will support young people by various activities and events to be organized in cooperation with government and non-government organizations from the private sector. Adwani revealed a 3D drawing festival will be held to support talented youth and develop their skills. A free workshop by artists from Australia to draw 3D graphics was the first event of its kind in Kuwait.

He called on institutions and tourism companies to prepare touristic programs to get tourists from the GCC, Arab and foreign countries to visit Boulevard, where the company's management will organize entertainment and educational programs and historical, artistic, recreational, cultural, theatrical and other activities. Adwani also invited the ministry of education to organize trips for students to Boulevard. "We haven't forgotten the disabled, and equipped the park with suitable facilities for them. We would also like to organize trips for them to achieve common national goals."

In addition, Boulevard will organize football, basketball, volleyball, tennis, cricket and other matches in its grounds. He said Boulevard welcomes all media, radio, television and satellite channels, public and private, to record their programs inside the mall. Adwani pointed out that Salmiya Group will develop public awareness and educational competitions for visitors on different occasions. Competition among chefs will also be held in restaurants that are located in Boulevard on a monthly basis to select the best dish.

At the end of the press conference, Adwani announced the start of a competition for the media, which have a unique role. The competition is about the best report covering Boulevard's activities and events during this month. There will be also a competition for the best footage for photographers. Al-Ahli Bank's branch in the Boulevard also announced the start of a competition for best picture of the bank's branch in the Boulevard. Ali Bsaj, Regional Manager of Al-Ahli Bank, said that the bank will give cash prizes to the winners of the most beautiful pictures.



KUWAIT: (From left) Nader Marafie, Adwan Al-Adwani and Ahmed Abu Sido attend the press conference yesterday.—Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Adwan Al-Adwani honors Ahmed Abu Sido.

Legalese

CHILD RIGHTS IN KUWAIT

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

Every society has different traditions when it comes to what is and is not acceptable behavior regarding children, every generation also has different ways of doing things. Marriage to a 10-year-old was acceptable in many countries in the past, even in the Gulf Cooperation Council states, but is certainly not acceptable or legal now. Child labor was also legal in many countries in the previous century but is not now. What about Kuwaiti law in general? What are the most important laws when it comes to age?

I personally think that more light should be shed on child rights in the GCC. Today, I have gathered questions from my readers/clients on children in Kuwait and their rights from adults that are concerned.

Minors under 16 for criminal cases

Question: My son is 16 years old and as a teenager he can be hard to control sometimes. His friends and him were caught stealing from the grocery shop next door. I am really worried about him. I heard there is a new law in Kuwait that makes 16 years the new "legal age" and therefore he can be held responsible, is this true?

Fajer: Before I answer the question, I want to make it clear that under Kuwaiti law there is no such thing as "legal age". There are different circumstances for ages under Kuwaiti law depending on the law that is of concern. I think what you are speaking about is criminal law, in the past those accused of a crime were only trialed at the criminal courts for adults if they were 18 and above. The new law states that minors are now under 16 years old for criminal cases and not 18.

Child rights

Question: A lot of people say there are no child rights in Kuwait. Is this true? Also, as a teacher, I would like my students to be aware of what they can do or who they can speak to should there be any incidents or when they feel unsafe. What can I tell them?

Fajer: Of course children have rights in Kuwait just like any other civil society, but the rights differ accordingly. The Ministry of Health in Kuwait has a Child Protection Hotline; the number is 147, and children in Kuwait should be aware of this number and the services they offer. Adults should also know this number and call it should they see any children being abused.

Divorce and travel

Question: I am divorced and I would like to take my children with me on a holiday back home. Am I allowed to do that? Do my children have the right to refuse also?

Fajer: Questions like this need to be more specific, as a lawyer I need more information from you. It depends on if you are the mother or father and also what is the religion of the marriage as well as the terms that were agreed upon for the divorce.

If you are the mother and you have "legal guardianship" on the children, legally speaking you still need permission from their father in order to travel. The officer at immigration could ask you for a permission letter from their father.

For any legal questions, queries or if you need legal assistance, email ask@fajethelawyer.com

POWER STRUGGLE AT THE HEART OF SPORTS CRISIS

KUWAIT: A lingering sports crisis in Kuwait that triggered international sanctions is seen as part of a power struggle in the state, analysts say. Over a year ago, world sports bodies led by the International Olympic Committee and world football's FIFA suspended Kuwait over alleged government interference in sports for the second time since 2010. According to world sports organizations, the suspension was due to legislation issued in 2014 and 2015 allowing the government to interfere in local sports federations and undermine the independence of the sports movement.

As a result, the state was barred from taking part in the Rio 2016 Olympic Games and qualification for the 2018 World Cup. Shooter Fehaid Al-Deehani, who won a gold medal, the first ever by a Kuwaiti athlete at the Olympics, had to compete as an independent and was not allowed to carry his country's flag due to the ban. However, that could change after Kuwait's new parliament - elected last

month with opposition MPs taking nearly half the seats - called on the government "to do what is necessary to lift the suspension on sport".

In a possible sign of progress, Information and Youth Minister Sheikh Salman Humoud Al-Sabah told MPs last week that the government was ready to sit down "with FIFA or any other side provided that does not breach Kuwait's sovereignty or constitution". A neutral group appears to have emerged in the new parliament pushing for an end to the suspension.

"The problem of sports in Kuwait is that it is being used as a tool in the power struggle," political analyst Nasser Al-Abdali told AFP. Huge public funds pumped into sports could also be a factor, according to Abdali, who heads the Kuwait Society for the Promotion of Democracy. The sports authority said last year that the government spent KD 400 million (\$1.3 billion) on sports in the past five years.

Sheikh Salman had directly accused "Kuwaitis in international

sports" of causing the suspension through complaints they sent to world sports bodies. The old parliament passed legislation in June boosting the government's influence in sports which was used by the government to dissolve the country's Olympic committee, the football federation and several other federations.

"Those laws are personal and violate international sports charters," said leading Kuwaiti sports journalist Faisal Al-Qanai, Qanai, who is also vice president of the International Press Sports Association. Leading Kuwaiti sports critic Mutlaq Nassar however argues that the new laws do not contradict international sports charters. "Legislation was introduced to reduce the influence of corrupt forces and reform the sports movement which was being misused for personal gains," Nassar told AFP. Qanai however said that "all Kuwait needs to do is to amend the violating laws and the suspension will be lifted within 24 hours". — AFP

Local Spotlight

ALEPPO CRIME



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

The Middle East is facing very complex and difficult conditions, especially since the situation involves religious ideologies. Talk about assault and murder in the media seems normal. It is a disgusting situation.

Aleppo has been exposed to crimes against humanity, regardless of the justifications or reasons given by any power. My simple understanding of crimes against humanity is the well-known definition that includes murder, extermination, torture, displacement and dimensional exclusion, terrorism and detention or illegal persecution for religious or racial reasons, whether individually or collectively, against civilians in occupied territories. Isn't that what just happened to the city of Aleppo?

The killing operation there began with a displacement of the population of east Aleppo, with a live broadcast carried by the official Syrian TV channel under the title "Aleppo victory". This channel showed some scenes of areas of destruction in Aleppo - images that the world saw for the first time. The destruction there is massive and bloody.

Where are the UN representatives? No comments! It sent low-ranked employees to submit a proposal on the readiness of the United Nations to assist the people of Aleppo to be expelled from their homes, at a time when the whole world knows that the International Red Cross refused to supervise the forced displacement of the people of Aleppo. This poses a big question. Did the Red Cross refuse to cover a crime against humanity?

US President Barack Obama clearly stated that the responsibility lies with the Assad regime and its allies, the Russians and Iranians. He said in a press conference at the White House that "their hands are stained with blood". Thank you sir - you only said the truth.

The World Health Organization confirmed that it informed the relief agencies that were involved in the evacuation operations to leave the area, without providing any reasons. Killings are continuing with no one to help! The Kuwait Red Crescent Society is in the process of collecting donations, and individuals and groups are also doing so, but I do not know how it would be sent and to whom.

For the first time since his election, US President-Elect Donald Trump confirmed his view on the need to work on the establishment of safe zones in Syria, adding that Gulf states have to pay the cost. Sadly, he doesn't see the humanitarian side of the conflict. He does not talk about the US' humanitarian duty to stop the Russian or Iranian intervention in the region and ensure the safety of residents who were forced to move out of their countries. Trump's only concern is that the Gulf should pay for the refugees' eating and drinking costs.

I'm not optimistic at all. I think that the war in Syria will last longer than expected in light of the US approach and the world's silence. Some Arab media tried to justify Arab impotence over Aleppo by blaming Turkey. This is not acceptable or fair, because it is not reasonable to expect Turkey alone to save Aleppo, after the US' complicity and disappointing role. There is no doubt Turkey has played a great humanitarian role so far.

What happened in Aleppo is a crime against humanity, including forced displacement of the population by Russia, Iran and the Damascus regime, amidst international silence headed by the United Nations. The situation puts Turkey in the foreground and Gulf states must stand firmly with Turkey. Aleppo is not going to be the last scene of massacres and more evil is coming. Gulf states need to support Turkey by all means and at all cost.

WOMAN FOUND LIVING IN THE DESERT WITH TWO DAUGHTERS

TRIO TAKEN TO SOCIAL CARE HOME

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Subaih ordered the examination of a Kuwaiti woman found living in a tent with her two daughters in the Nuwaiseeb desert. The woman used to work for the interior ministry and was expelled for absenteeism. The woman's social allowance has been suspended since 2004. Reports about a woman living alone in the desert with her daughters had gone viral on social media, and the social affairs ministry confirmed the reports to be true yesterday. It arranged for the woman and her daughters to be taken to a social care home. However, after preparing a temporary residence for her, it was discovered that the woman is suffering from mental illness, so she was sent to the psychiatric diseases hospital, while her daughters are being medically examined.

Jaber Hospital

The Supreme Planning Council's Assistant Secretary General Bader Al-Refae' said that 98 percent of Jaber Hospital is ready, and the facility will be handed over as per the Ministry of Public Works' reports. Refae' visited the site yesterday escorted by the ministry's assistant undersecretaries, and told reporters that the visit was part of a series of visits to sites where development projects are being carried out to check work progress, and to overcome any possible obstacles in collaboration with relevant government bodies. Refae' added that his team recently visited the new airport, Al-Zour refinery and other projects.

Meanwhile, the ministry's road engineering sector announced the launch of a new phase of the Jamal Abdul Nasser Road development project and said that Minister Abdurrahman Al-Mutawa gave orders to lengthen the road by nine kilometers more. Mutawa said that the project is one of the largest infrastructure ventures constructed in collabora-

tion with a consortium comprising of the Arab Office and Louis Berger at a total cost of KD 242.42 million. He added that the project is scheduled to be completed by mid-2018.

Fatal crash

A 41-year-old citizen was killed after losing control over his vehicle, which turned over on Fifth Ring Road near Bayan Palace.

Forgery

The administrative court yesterday ordered the suspension and cancellation of Al-Seddiq Co-op Society's board elections, which were set to be held today, because of suspicions of forgery in candidates' registration. Meanwhile, consumer protection and commercial inspection teams foiled an attempt to forge the production country of Pakistani potatoes after re-bagging and labeling them as Lebanese potatoes in order to sell them for higher prices. The potato shipment was seized at the vegetable market.



KUWAIT: The Kuwait Dive Team of the Environmental Voluntary Foundation lifted a wooden sunken boat weighing 20 tons from Fahaheel waters yesterday. The team was able to lift the sunken boat by using air suction pumps, but such efforts were obstructed by wastes and cold weather, the team's leader Waleed Al-Fadhel said. He called on boat owners and fishermen to preserve the environment of the area, and called for tightening relevant laws against violators to protect the marine environment of Kuwait. — KUNA

INTERIOR MINISTER ABANDONS RESPONSIBILITY OVER SENDING STAFF FOR TREATMENT ABROAD

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Lt Gen Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah issued a ministerial decision to transfer the approval of sending interior ministry employees for treatment abroad or to private hospitals in Kuwait to the Ministry of Health's treatment abroad department. The interior minister previously had the authority for making such approvals, but after yesterday's decision, the treatment abroad department becomes the sole authority responsible for making such decisions.



Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah

No injuries in fire

Firemen put out fire in a mosque under construction in Jaber Al-Ali yesterday. Firefighters arrived to the scene minutes after the fire was reported, and managed to put out the flames before the blaze could spread. No injuries were reported in the incident. A case was filed to determine the cause of the fire.

Traffic light

The Interior Ministry's traffic department said a traffic light will become operational starting from today for vehicles coming from King Fahd Road at the intersection with Street 278 at Sabah Al-Ahmad Sea City.



KUWAIT: Captain Fahad Al-Mukaimi from the Hawally Fire Station return to Kuwait Saturday night after spending the past few months in Germany for treatment from injuries he sustained while tackling a blaze last July. Senior Kuwait Fire Service Directorate officials welcomed Mukaimi at the airport. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

النباة Al-Anbaa

HOW CAN THEY BE GOOD FOR KUWAIT?

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

The National Assembly's 2016 elections are over. Some accepted the results while others did not. That was how I was drawn to an incident that took place during the elections. My friend Um Yousuf and I were exchanging views on the very election day on the next assembly, when her phone rang. After speaking for a few minutes, she answered the caller in a sharp tone, "listen cousin, all the names that young mentioned are not reformists, so do not expect me and my friends to vote for them, I believe you made a mistake by calling me."

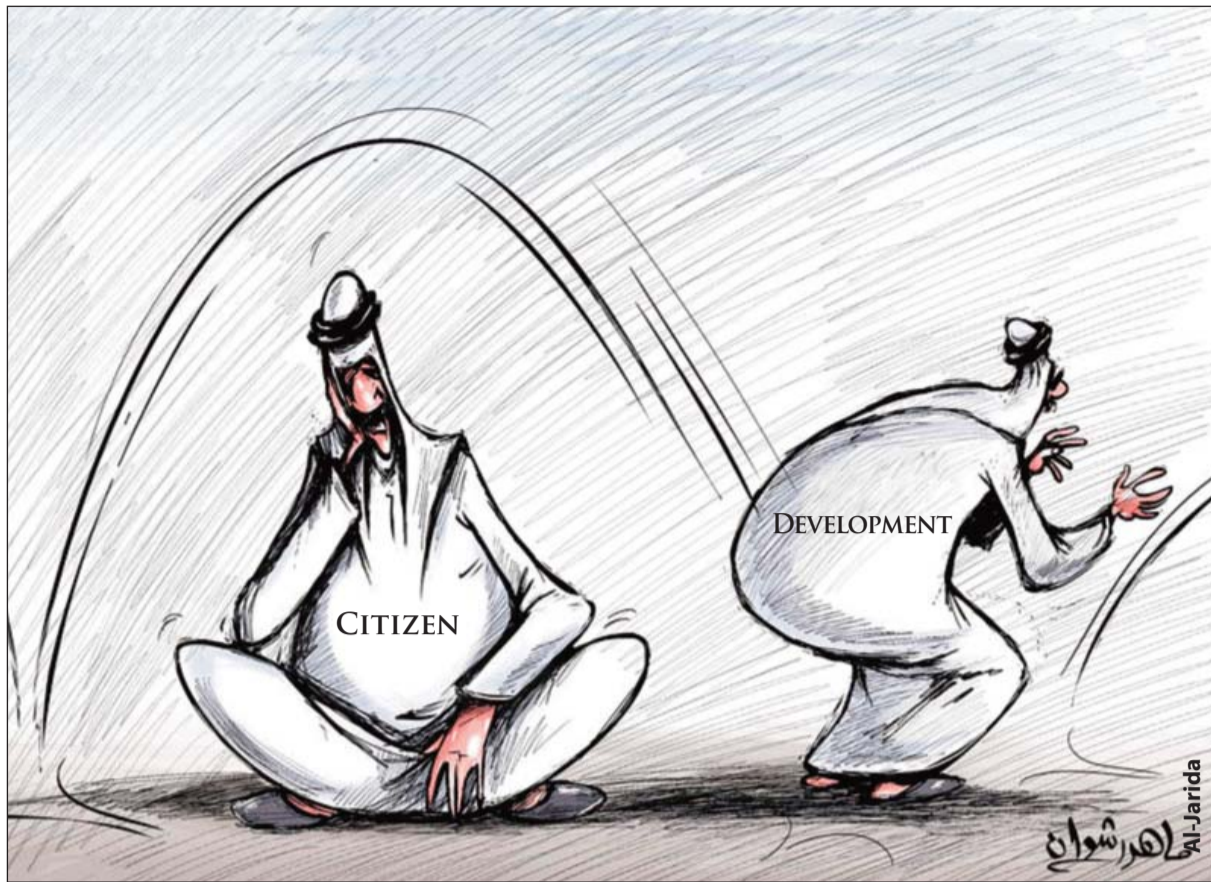
After hanging up, Um Yousuf said, "my cousin never called me for months to ask about my health and whereabouts, but had the audacity to ask me to give my vote to the names she mentioned, claiming that they can reform the state

Why do I believe her and give my vote to people whom she follows while she does not know how to keep in touch with her own relatives?

and the assembly. Why should I believe her and give my vote to people whom she follows while she does not know how to keep in touch with her own relatives? When they are not good to their relatives, how are they going to be good for Kuwait and its people?"

"O mankind, fear your Lord, Who created you and your mate from the same soul and dispersed many men and women from both of them. Fear Allah, through Whom you ask one another. Indeed, Allah is always, over you, an Observer." Surat An-Nisa - the Holy Quran.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



النباة Al-Anbaa

THE SIX-MONTH PARLIAMENT

Al-Anbaa

By Thaar Al-Rasheedi

The new cabinet seems to be so flexible that, in comparison with the previous one, at least four ministers will resign or be forced to resign for any reason, be that to avoid a grilling motion or to make urgent political adaptations. This government is flexible enough to 'absorb' a magnitude eight parliamentary quake regardless of whether it is intentional or not. The current government formation and the way portfolios have been distributed indicate that it can resist all sorts of political shocks.

The first grilling motion will give a full review of lawmakers' attitudes, namely of those who have not, so far, showed any clearly defined political affiliations. The first motion will end up making a limited reshuffle. Further motions will be subjected to the ups and downs of referral to the legislative or constitutional committees. So, the motion to be filed by the opposition will carry no surprises and the scenarios are very predictable.

However, if at any point a grilling motion is filed by a pro-government MP, it could lead to constitutionally dissolving the parliament after filing a motion of lack of cooperation with the government. According to the cur-

rent parliamentary structure, grilling motions filed by any opposition MP against any minister will not have any significant impact regardless of how important the issue discussed is.

The motion will not get enough majority support to knock off grilling minister. But if the motion is filed by a pro-government MP, the parliament will be dissolved within a week without further discussion. This raises a question whether this parliament will be annulled or not. As a matter of fact, 21 candidates have so far filed contests and any of these can lead to dissolving the parliament, though this is not likely to happen, especially since the contests are based on vote-counts and they can replace some MPs but are expected to find a strong legal loophole to get the parliament annulled.

A constitutional dissolution is not likely to happen, though the door is open for that, because this parliament has limited opposition. All grilling motions are controlled by the government. Finally, like I previously predicted, this parliament will only last for six months but now I believe it will not even last that long.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

Crime

Report

FORGED VISA RESULTS IN THREE ARRESTS

KUWAIT: Residency detectives arrested an Egyptian mandoub (company representative), a Moroccan woman and a Syrian man for questioning in a forgery case. The case revolves around a suspected forgery of a visit visa. The visit visa was issued in the name of a man but then changed to a woman's name. A security source said the Egyptian mandoub allegedly received a KD 1,000 bribe for facilitating the woman's entry. The Syrian man said he was in Morocco and met the girl and planned to marry her, and denied involvement in forgery, saying that all he asked for was a service for the money. The woman said that she is in love with the Syrian who asked her to come to Kuwait.

Purse theft in hospital

Hawally prosecutor ordered an investigation into a theft case after a receptionist at a private hospital reported her purse stolen. The woman said she was busy with patients when someone stole her purse and fled. Detectives will review cameras to identify the alleged thief.

Drunk driver arrested

A man who does not have a driver's license was arrested and taken to Maidan Hawally police station for allegedly driving while intoxicated. The arrest was made on the Arabian Gulf Road. He was remanded in custody pending further action.

Fugitives caught

Farwaniya police arrested a wanted citizen on four civil cases and one attempted murder case. He also had an imported liquor bottle with him. He was sent to concerned authorities. Separately, a Libyan man was arrested in Salmiya. The man is wanted for a two year jail sentence on drugs charges.

Thefts

A felony case was filed when a woman told police a citizen named (M.A) stole her phone. Meanwhile in an unrelated case, a thief stole the license plate of a car, along with its back wheels, and a computer which was in the trunk. The theft occurred at Jahra Hospital's parking lot.

Man beats girlfriend

A citizen beat his girlfriend because she did not tell him she was traveling, then took away her mobile phone. The woman went to the local police station, filed a case and press charges against her boyfriend. Police are investigating.

Woman robbed

A citizen reported to police that her housemaid robbed her KD 800-worth jewelry and absconded. Detectives are investigating. — Translated from the Arabic press



ABK SPONSORS SPORT ACHIEVEMENTS EVENT AT AL-MA'AREFA ATHLETICS TOURNAMENT

MAJOR SPORTING TOURNAMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) supported the 5th Al Ma'arefa Athletics Tournament for people with special needs, which was held on recently at the Youth and Sport Stadium in Manqaf. The event turned out to be a special day enjoyed by the competitors and supporters who had come to cheer on their teams. Sporting teams from a record twenty four educational institutes across Kuwait took part in this year's tournament, all competing for a place on the victory podium in a range of traditional athletic disciplines that included shot-put, high-jump, long-jump and various track events.

At the end of the tournament, a special ceremony was held for winners to receive their trophies and commemorative medals from Talal Khalifa Al Jeri, Al Jeri Holding Group and Ali Al Baghli ABK's Senior Manager - Corporate Communications. ABK is a committed member of Kuwait's community, actively engaged in supporting a wide variety of events, especially those that focus on special needs. For more information about Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit eahli.com or contact a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.



KUWAIT: Faisal Al-Qanaie, Secretary of Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA), released his annual calendar commemorating the memory of martyr Sheikh Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

البنك الموحد المتحد
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AUB ATMS EQUIPPED TO ACCOMMODATE SPECIAL NEEDS CUSTOMERS' REQUIREMENTS

KUWAIT: In line with its overall objectives of supporting special needs customers as well as the Central Bank of Kuwait's (CBK) guidelines to provide a full range of financial services to special needs customers while also facilitating their overall banking experience, Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced today that its branches and selected ATMs are fully equipped to accommodate special needs customers with different forms of disabilities. The Bank has developed a number of innovative platforms which aim to simplify customers' overall experience, whether they are in wheel chairs, are visually impaired or aurally challenged.

AUB's latest development comes as part of its efforts to facilitate banking services for all special needs customers. Across its branches in Kuwait, the Bank's ATMs have been equipped with the latest technologies and facilities to accommodate for customers' needs. These include Mishref, Qadsiya, Farwaniya, Sabah Al-Salem, Ahmadi, Jahra and Al-Ayoun branches, as well as Head Office branch.

AUB has activated voice guidance technology across its ATMs, in an effort to provide visually impaired customers with highly improved access to the Bank's wide range of banking services. This new service activates when headphones are plugged into the standard audio jack. The main ATM screen blacks out to provide more privacy for visually impaired customers.

The new applications and technology based services that are installed across AUB's ATMs aim at providing an easy and more simplified banking service to special needs customers with various forms of disabilities, while enabling to conduct their personal transactions in a safe environment.

AUB's ATMs include a wide range of features such as voice guidance in English and Arabic, Braille keypads, large fonts and specially designed screens with contrasting backgrounds to provide an easy-to-read experience. In addition, our ATM vestibules are designed such that the ATM height is at appro-

priate levels for customers with wheelchairs.

A number of the Bank's ATMs in select branches are placed in highly specialized glass rooms to ensure customers' privacy. When using the ATM automatic doors equipped with sensors will prevent other customers from entering the ATM vestibule until customers have completed their transactions and have departed the area. Features include an emergency button that alerts the Bank's security and opens doors immediately when required.

Huda Al-Madani, AUB's Assistant General Manager- Alternative Distribution Channels said, "We are very pleased to continue driving more service innovation to cater to all segments of society across Kuwait. Our efforts align with those of the Central Bank to reflect an all-encompassing understanding and benefits of financial transactions to all members of society. At AUB, we continue to accommodate and adapt to the latest technological breakthroughs that help facilitate special needs customers' banking experience."



How Trump has upended Washington politics as usual

CHINA SAYS IT SEIZED US NAVY DRONE TO ENSURE SAFETY OF SHIPS



IDLIB, Syria: In this file photo released on October 17, 2015, and provided by the Fursan al-Haq Syrian rebel brigade, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, Free Syrian Army fighters of Fursan al-Haq Brigade hold a banner. —AP

IDLIB LIKELY TO BE SYRIA'S NEXT BLOODY THEATER

PROVINCE PACKED WITH TENS OF THOUSANDS OF REBELS

BEIRUT: The battle for Aleppo has gripped the world, but it is hardly the only active front across war-torn Syria. One of the next targets for the forces of Syrian President Bashar Assad will probably be the heartland of rebel territory, the neighboring province of Idlib.

The province west of Aleppo is a stronghold of al-Qaeda's Syria affiliate and is now also packed with tens of thousands of rebels, many of them evacuated from other parts of the country, making it likely to be an even more bloody theater than Aleppo.

Idlib has direct links to the Turkish border, and is located only a few kilometers north of Hama, a central province and key point for defending Assad's coastal strongholds and nearby Russian military bases.

Asked where he will turn to next, Assad has suggested his first priority, after fortifying the area around Aleppo city, would be Idlib. "Identifying which city comes next depends on which city contains the largest number of terrorists and which city provides other countries with the opportunity to support them logistically," he told Russian media outlets in an interview in Damascus this week.

"Currently, there are direct links between Aleppo and Idlib because of the presence of Jabhat al-Nusra inside and on the outskirts of Aleppo and in Idlib," he said, a reference to the al-Qaeda affiliate, formerly known as the Nusra Front, now the Fatah al-Sham Front. He added that the decision about what comes next will be made through discussions with his Russian and Iranian allies.

The government's loss of Jisr al-Shughour, in the westernmost corner of the province, and with it the whole of Idlib province, in the summer of 2015, was what prompted Russia to intervene to shore up Assad's forces, eventually turning the war's momentum back in his favor.

Syria's Kandahar?

For the past two years, as Assad pursued a policy of siege and local truces to force surrenders, thousands of rebels and opposition supporters have been deported to Idlib

- a forced exile that many see as a calculated attempt to gather the fighters in one location where they can later be eliminated.

The province has welcomed thousands of Islamic militants - with varying degrees of extremist ideology - who have converged along with their families from the central city of Homs and the suburbs of Damascus, after capitulating to government forces. It has become a common sight: Men receiving a hero's welcome as they step off the green buses in Idlib with guns slung over their shoulders, having been forced to leave besieged and bombarded towns and cities.

"The government wants to prepare people, psychologically, for the idea that Idlib is the Kandahar of Syria," said Ibrahim Hamidi, a journalist who covers Syrian affairs for the Saudi-owned newspaper Al Hayat.

He was referring to Kandahar province in Afghanistan, the base of the militant Taliban's 1996-2001 government. He said the presence of so many Islamic militants would make it easier for the government and its allies to later justify a massive assault.

The province has the most powerful concentration of rebels. According to the Institute for the Study of War, it boasts more than 50,000 fighters regrouped under the umbrella organization Jaish al-Fatah, or Army of Conquest, which is led by the al-Qaeda affiliate. Using Idlib as a launching pad, the group briefly broke the government's siege of eastern Aleppo in August.

Open lines to Turkey

Idlib is one of the few regions in Syria where the Islamic State group and the government have no presence, save for two small government-controlled Shiite-majority villages. The province borders Turkey, a key sponsor of Syrian rebels, and the coastal province of Latakia, a government stronghold.

Access to the Turkish border means virtually everything is available in Idlib - including weapons and other supplies.

Yezid Sayigh, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, said a major point in the Idlib battle will be the role that Turkey will

play, since the opposition survives on continuous replenishment of supplies from Turkey.

He added that if Turkey decides for various reasons - perhaps as part of an understanding with Russia - to reduce that assistance, then the Turkish border with Idlib would become like the Jordanian border with Daraa, where the armed opposition has very little ability to take independent action or to survive in the long run.

al-Qaeda stronghold

Members of the opposition fear that government and Russian warplanes will eventually carpet bomb Idlib under the pretext that it is a stronghold of al-Qaeda-linked extremists. The Fatah al-Sham Front's leadership is based there, perhaps making western powers more inclined to turn a blind eye to a massive military campaign targeting the province.

Since July 2015, US aircraft have killed some of al-Qaeda's most senior figures in strikes on Idlib, including Kuwait-born Mohsen al-Fadli, Sanafi al-Nasr of Saudi Arabia and Ahmed Salama Mabrouk of Egypt, who was killed in early October. They belonged to what U.S. officials call the Khorasan group, which Washington describes as an internal branch of al-Qaeda that plans attacks against Western interests.

"The regime wants Idlib to become another Raqqa," said Hassan al-Dughaim, a Turkey-based Syrian preacher and researcher from Idlib, who lived there for most of his life until last year. The Syrian city of Raqqa is the de facto capital of the IS group's self-styled caliphate. Idlib city serves a similar function for al-Qaeda.

Al-Dughaim said the Syrian government hopes that the presence of so many militants from different groups will lead to infighting. But despite the steady flow of fighters such confrontations have been rare.

Faysal Itani, a resident fellow at the Atlantic Council, agrees. "By lumping the displaced hostile populations in with the extremists, you've basically confined the problem to one place," he said. "Once that is done, the regime will go after it hard and no one will be able to make

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UN SECURITY COUNCIL TO VOTE ON ALEPPO OBSERVERS

UNITED NATIONS: The UN Security Council will vote on a French proposal to send observers to the flashpoint Syrian city of Aleppo to monitor evacuations and report on the protection of civilians, diplomats said.

The council will meet at to decide on the draft resolution, despite resistance from Russia, Syria's ally and a veto-wielding Security Council member. France circulated a draft text late Friday stating that the council is "alarmed" by the worsening humanitarian crisis in Aleppo and by the fact that "tens of thousands of besieged Aleppo inhabitants" are in need of aid and evacuation.

Thousands of trapped civilians and the last remaining opposition fighters in Aleppo were waiting for evacuations to resume on Saturday, a day after the operation was suspended by the Syrian government.

Syrian forces this week moved to assert full control over the east of the city, which had been held by opposition fighters since 2012. French Ambassador Francois Delattre said the international presence would prevent Aleppo from turning into another Srebrenica, where thousands of Bosnian men and boys were massacred in 1995 when the town fell to Bosnian Serb forces during the Balkan wars.

The draft resolution would request that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon quickly redeploy UN humanitarian staff already in Syria to the city "to carry out adequate, neutral monitoring, direct observation and to report on evacuations from besieged parts of Aleppo and protection of civilians inside Aleppo," according to a copy of the text obtained by AFP.

Ban would also ensure the deployment of further staff, according to the draft text, which demands that Syria grant access to the observers.

The UN chief would report to the council within five days on whether access has been granted by the Syrian government, which has repeatedly blocked UN access during the nearly six-year war.

Protecting hospitals

Evacuations were expected to resume under a "deal" that would allow civilians and fighters in other besieged towns to leave, according to rebel officials, according to rebel officials. The Damascus government made no announcements.

The draft resolution would seek to ensure the "voluntary, safe and dignified passage of all civilians" from Aleppo and other areas under UN monitoring and coordination, with priority given to the wounded and most vulnerable.

It demands the protection of all doctors, medical workers, hospitals and ambulances following reports that Syrian forces had bombed all of the medical facilities in Aleppo.

The text specifically mentions the need to protect the border hospitals of Atmeh, Darkoush, Bab al-Hawa and Bab al-Salamah, where many of the evacuees would be taken.

The council would also demand that urgent humanitarian aid reach Aleppo, which has been under siege since July. US Ambassador Samantha Power said Friday that the observers on the ground would provide a "presence as protection." But Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said he found elements of the French proposal "questionable," including whether the observers could be quickly redeployed.

Ban has urged Syrian parties to resume the evacuation operation and allow civilians to leave safely, saying "Aleppo is now a synonym for hell."—AFP



GENEVA: A man wearing a mask of US elected President Donald Trump and a toy gun swims in the lake during the 78th "Coupe de Noel" (Christmas cup) swimming race in the Lake Geneva yesterday. —AFP

US ELECTORAL COLLEGE, ARCHAIC AND UNLOVED, PREPARES TO ANOINT TRUMP

DECISION TO BE ANNOUNCED TODAY

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's fiercest critics may be dreaming of a last-minute revolt, but the Electoral College, a peculiarly American institution, appears near-certain today to select the 70-year-old real estate mogul as the 45th US president.

Its detractors-and they are many-have denounced an electoral system that flies in the face of the venerated "one man, one vote" principle, and which perversely encourages presidential candidates to campaign in only a few key states while ignoring whole swaths of the country. But despite the torrent of criticism this method has faced for decades, no reform attempt has ever succeeded.

When American voters cast their ballots on November 8, they did not in fact directly elect the next occupant of the White House. Instead, they picked 538 "electors" charged with translating their wishes into reality. Trump won a clear majority of those electors — 306, with 270 needed for election-despite dramatically losing the popular vote to his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton.

A similar scenario took place in 2000, when George W Bush became president even though Democrat Al Gore won more popular votes. However, the gap is far more dramatic in 2016, with Clinton scoring nearly three million extra votes over Trump.

Today, electors will convene in each of the 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, to officially designate the next president and vice president. Following an extraordinarily vitriolic campaign, this step in the electoral process—normally little more than a formality—has been thrust into the spotlight.

'Faithless electors'

Historically, electors only rarely defy the expressed wishes of the majority of voters in their district. And never have the votes of these "faithless electors" changed the outcome of a presidential election.

Still, some Democrats—who see a Trump presidency as presenting an existential danger to American democracy—are clinging to the slender hope that a few dozen Republican electors might decide not to vote for their party's populist leader.

Yet, should that happen, it would be up to the House of Representatives to designate the successor to Barack Obama. And Republicans hold a strong majority there. An online petition calling on electors to reject Trump, has collected some five million supporters. Hollywood stars including Martin Sheen ("President Bartlet" on the popular television series "West Wing") recently released a video to goad electors to take that step.

"You have the position, the authority and the opportunity to go down in the books as an American hero who changed the course of history," the celebrities say, addressing electors who have been thrust overnight from the shadows into the spotlight.

But these efforts appear to have almost no chance of succeeding: There is no evidence that the requisite 37 Republican electors will decide to abandon Trump. To date, only one of them, Christopher Suprum of Texas, has publicly announced his intention to stage such a revolt.

The final result may not be known today, as states are given several days to report their numbers. The Congress will, in any case, announce the name of the official winner on January 6, two weeks before the next president is to be inaugurated in a solemn and pomp-filled ceremony outside the Capitol.

A 'disaster' or bit of 'genius'?

Asked about it at his final news conference of the year before leaving for a Hawaiian vacation, Barack Obama acknowledged that the system was "a vestige, it's a carry-over from an earlier vision of how our federal government was going to work," and that it could disadvantage Democrats.

Still, the outgoing president urged his camp to draw needed lessons from their electoral failure and develop a strategy for the future rather than bemoaning the 2016 loss or trying to overturn it. "The truth of the matter is that if we have a strong message, if we're speaking to what the American people care about, typically, the popular vote and the Electoral College vote will align," he said in a clear allusion to his own presidential victories in 2008 and 2012.

David Pozen, a professor at Columbia Law School, sees at least one silver lining to the intense focus on the Electoral College: it will draw attention to the urgent need for change. "Either way, the renewed public interest in the Electoral College underscores the need to do away with this antiquated and fundamentally undemocratic institution," he said in an op-ed article in the New York Times.

In November 2000, Hillary Clinton, then the newly elected Democratic senator from New York, issued a clear call for an electoral reform that would result in direct, universal suffrage.

Trump, for his part, has radically changed his stance on the matter in just four years. "The Electoral College is a disaster for a democracy," he tweeted in November 2012. Last month, just days after a victory that seemed to stun even him, he sounded a rather different note: "The Electoral College is actually genius in that it brings all states, including the smaller ones, into play. Campaigning is much different!"—AFP



NEW YORK: This United Nations photo shows UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as he addresses a press conference, his last at United Nations headquarters, as his term of office draws to a close at the end of the year on December 16, 2016. —AFP

PROSECUTORS: FBI AGENT LEAKED INFO IN TRADING CASE TO MEDIA

NEW YORK: Federal prosecutors say an FBI agent has acknowledged leaking confidential information to reporters about an insider trading investigation involving a professional gambler.

The US attorney in New York told a federal judge Friday that the unnamed agent confessed to being a source for The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times regarding Las Vegas gambler William Walters. Walters had asked the judge to determine the source of the leaks.

The letter from US Attorney Preet Bharara says the matter has been referred to oversight offices in the US Justice Department and the FBI.

Walters has pleaded not guilty to charges he made millions of dollars in illicit stock trades, including one involving golfer Phil Mickelson. Mickelson was spared criminal charges and agreed to repay the money. —AP

BIDEN, MOURNERS PAY TRIBUTE TO JOHN GLENN, AMERICAN HERO

COLUMBUS: The nation's vice president and a retired Marine Corps general were among the dignitaries, family members and other mourners who choked up Saturday during a memorial tribute to the late space hero John Glenn. Roughly 2,500 people gathered at Mershon Auditorium on the Ohio State University campus for "a celebration of life" for the former fighter pilot, history-making astronaut and longtime Democratic US senator from small-town Ohio.

He was remembered not only for bravery, but for his thoughtful consideration for others, his integrity and his patriotic optimism. "I think John defined what it meant to be an American, what we were about, just by how we acted," said Vice President Joe Biden, a former colleague of Glenn's in the US Senate. "It was always about the promise. We were a country of possibility, opportunity, always a belief in tomorrow."

Retired USMC Gen. John Dailey said Glenn was "never in it for himself," but always acted for the nation's greater good. Like many others, he recalled Glenn's humility and basic kindness. "We had John for 95 great years and it still wasn't enough," Dailey said.

A man of firsts

Glenn died Dec. 8 at age 95. He was the first American to orbit the Earth in 1962, and then in 1998 became the oldest person in space at 77. Thousands of people, including Democratic US Secretary of State John Kerry, visited the Ohio Statehouse on Friday as Glenn lay in honor. A solemn funeral procession through the center of the capital city carried his casket past more mourners willing to withstand cold and ice.

Ethel Kennedy, widow of close Glenn ally Robert F. Kennedy, and their son Robert F. Kennedy Jr. were among the mourners present, along with Ohio political leaders including Gov. John Kasich and former Govs. Ted Strickland and Richard Celeste.

The service was preceded by recordings of hymns, arias and popular songs. Some - including Nat King Cole's "Smile" and Susan Boyle's version of "Impossible Dream" - nodded to Glenn's trademark optimism. Others, including "You Are My Sunshine," "Moon River" and Shirley Jones singing "Goodnight, My Someone" - recalled Glenn's long love affair with wife, Annie, who survives him.

Their marriage was cited frequently as a source of Glenn's strength and an inspiration to those who have known and watched the couple for 73 years. US Sen. Sherrod Brown, a fellow Democrat who first met Glenn when he was a teenage Eagle Scout, called Glenn "an FDR Democrat" who believed in the power of government and the importance of public service - through his military and space career and his tenure in the Senate.

"He was a work horse, never a show horse," Brown said. "He labored over the details of non-proliferation and environmental cleanup of nuclear disposal sites, grunt work to some, but John was content to spend his time not on collecting instant headlines but achieving lasting results that would leave the world better than he had found it."

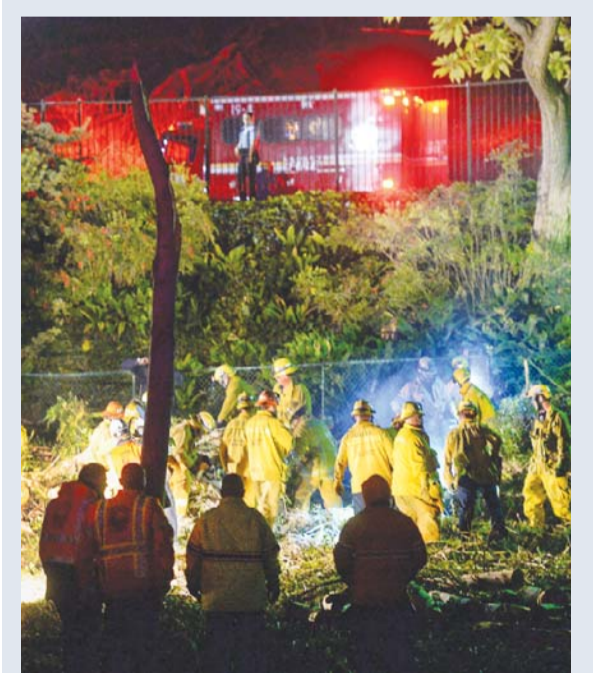
Brown's wife, journalist Connie Schultz, recalled his tenderness when their grandson was curious about how astronauts urinate in space. She saw it as example for the nation. "If American icon John Glenn could take the time to treat a child with such respect, surely we can find the time to listen to one another," she said.

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden Jr. said the US space program remains indebted to Glenn. "It was courage, grace and humility John displayed throughout his life that lifted him above the stars," Bolden said. "As the current head of NASA, I can say unequivocally that we are standing on John Glenn's shoulders as we pursue a human journey to Mars, a journey that would not be possible without his bravery and selfless dedication."

Glenn's son, David, said his father let him find himself and make his own mistakes - even when he came home with long hair and wearing bell bottom pants. "He might have blinked twice, or his face twitched or something like that. But that was it," he said. Daughter Lyn said she wanted an "atta girl" for some good grades she brought home at age 8, to which Glenn replied, "Yes, but what have you done for your country today?" She said Glenn refused a deal worth as much as \$5 million to have his photo placed on a Wheaties box because he saw it as making money from government service. —AFP



COLUMBUS: The casket of John Glenn is carried out of the Ohio Statehouse by Marines during his funeral procession on Saturday. —AP



WHITTIER, California: Los Angeles County Fire Dept. firefighters work at the scene where a large tree fell on a wedding party on Saturday. —AP

WOMAN DIES AFTER TREE FALLS ON WEDDING PARTY IN CALIFORNIA

WHITTIER, California: A woman was killed and five others were injured when a large eucalyptus tree fell on a wedding party taking photographs at a Southern California park Saturday, authorities said.

Several people were trapped under the tree at Whittier's Penn Park, the Los Angeles County Fire Department said. Video from the scene showed fire crews using chain saws to cut through the downed branches.

Four of the injured suffered scrapes and bruises, officials said. A 4-year-old girl was listed in critical condition due to head trauma, the Los Angeles Times reported. Witnesses described hearing a loud crack and seeing people run from the area.

The tree could have been weakened by California's ongoing drought and recent heavy rain could have contributed to its fall, officials said. An arborist will assess the area on Sunday, officials said. No other details were immediately available. —AP

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DUTERTE PAINKILLER USE DRAWS CONCERN

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's admission that he used a powerful painkiller has prompted concern about his health, with lawmakers urging him yesterday to undergo a medical examination and disclose the results. Duterte on Monday revealed that he used to take fentanyl, often prescribed for cancer pain and other chronic ailments, because of a spinal injury from previous motorcycle accidents. He however said his doctor made him stop using it on learning he was "abusing the drug" by using more than the prescribed patches.

The firebrand leader has attracted controversy over his war against suspected users of illegal drugs, which has claimed thousands of lives, and his incendiary language against the United States and the United Nations. Lawmakers said Duterte's remarks revived speculation about his health, including rumors during the election campaign that he suffered from cancer - a claim Duterte repeatedly denied.

"To end this speculation, it would be better if his physician explains how the president manages the pain that he suffers," Duterte ally congressman Carlos Zarate told AFP. Zarate added that a medical bulletin would clarify the state of Duterte's health, as fentanyl became controversial after pop legend Prince died of an accidental overdose of the drug in April. Fentanyl, highly potent and addictive, is estimated to be up to 100 times stronger than morphine.

An outspoken Duterte critic, Senator Leila de Lima, supported Zarate's call. "It is not just the illness itself that we should be worried about, but also the impact or side effects that the medications he is taking may have, especially on his lucidity and ability to make decisions with a clear mind." At 71, Duterte is the oldest president of the Philippines. He has said he suffers from daily migraine and ailments including Buerger's disease, a cardiovascular illness characterized by inflammation of blood vessels usually due to smoking.

Duterte cited ill health as the reason for skipping events during summits abroad. In Cambodia last week he said he might not even finish his six-year term. Another critic, Senator Antonio Trillanes, told AFP Duterte's admission that he took more than the prescribed fentanyl dosage showed he "qualified as a drug addict". However Duterte on Saturday denied any addiction. "When there's regularity, my friend, when you take it and when there's a monkey on your back, that's addiction," he told a BBC reporter.

Doctors said fentanyl was regulated in the Philippines, with physicians needing a license from the drug agency to prescribe it. "The ones using (fentanyl) are usually people with harrowing pain or terminal diseases. Doctor monitoring manages risks of addiction," said Leo Olarte, former president of the Philippine Medical Association. "A medical bulletin is good so the public won't be rattled." — AFP

52 YEMEN SOLDIERS DEAD IN IS-CLAIMED BOMBING

KERRY DISCUSSES YEMEN ON SAUDI TRIP

ADEN/RIYADH: A suicide bomber from the Islamic State group killed at least 52 Yemeni soldiers in Aden yesterday, the latest in a string of deadly attacks against recruits in the country's second city. Military officials and medics said dozens more were wounded in the attack that targeted a crowd of servicemen who had gathered to collect their salaries near a base in northeastern Aden. Aden health chief Abdel Nasser Sarea, in Al-Arish district, near Al-Sawlabaan base. Sarea said the bomber "took advantage of the gathering and detonated his explosives among them". Images from the blast scene showed bloodstains and scattered shoes across the sandy ground.

IS claimed responsibility for the attack, saying in a statement that a "martyrdom seeker" had gotten through security checkpoints before blowing himself up. The attack comes eight days after a similar bombing at Al-Sawlabaan claimed by IS killed 48 soldiers and wounded 29 others. Yemeni authorities have fought a months-long campaign against jihadists who remain active in the south and east of the impoverished Arabian peninsula country.

IS and its jihadist rival Al-Qaeda have taken advantage of a conflict between the government and Yemen's Houthi rebels, who control the capital Sanaa, to bolster their presence across much of the south. The two extremist groups have carried out a spate of attacks in Aden, Yemen's second city and headquarters of the internationally recognized government whose forces retook the port city from the Houthis last year. But Al-Qaeda has



RIYADH: Saudi King Salman meets US Secretary of State John Kerry yesterday. — AFP

distanced itself from the Dec 10 attack, claiming that it tends to avoid "the shedding of any Muslim blood" while focusing on fighting the "Americans and their allies."

Kerry in kingdom

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State John Kerry met Saudi King Salman and others yesterday to discuss the war in Yemen, a visit to the kingdom that likely will be his last as America's top diplomat. Kerry's trip, ahead of the inauguration of Republican President-elect Donald Trump, comes as diplomatic ties between the two longtime allies have been strained by the Iran nuclear deal championed by Democratic President Barack Obama and other issues.

Any tensions weren't immediately visible as Kerry held meetings with the king, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef and other royalty in Riyadh, the Saudi capital. "In turbulent times, it's good to have solid friends," Kerry told journalists yesterday night. "That's why the United States' partnership with Saudi Arabia is rightly so valuable."

Kerry earlier joined diplomats from Britain, Oman and the United

Arab Emirates to speak with Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, the United Nations special envoy to Yemen. The UAE is part of the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis, while Oman has served as an interlocutor for them. On Twitter, British Middle East Minister Tobias Ellwood said the meeting discussed a political process to end Yemen's war, something he described as "the only way to bring peace".

Kerry said he hoped to have parties involved "within two weeks" to agree to terms earlier set out by the UN. But he and Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir offered few specifics on how that would be accomplished, especially as the UN has proposed sidelining Saudi-backed President Abed-Rabbo Mansour Hadi and giving the rebels a share of power - concessions the kingdom strongly opposes. "You can see from the humanitarian situation, which is dire and deteriorating rapidly, that it is urgent that we try to bring this war to a close," he said. "But we also need to bring it to a close in a way that protects the security of Saudi Arabia." — Agencies

ERDOGAN OPENS NEW TRABZONSPOR STADIUM

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday opened the new 40,000-plus capacity stadium of Turkish football team Trabzonspor, the latest ambitious infrastructure project to take shape in the country. Erdogan cut the ceremonial opening ribbon alongside visiting Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani of Qatar, one of Ankara's top allies. The stadium, spectacularly located on Trabzon's Black Sea coast, is said to be the most modern in Turkey with a capacity of almost 41,500. Construction began in 2013.

Erdogan has spearheaded a drive to build new stadiums, airports, bridges and tunnels across Turkey. On Tuesday he will inaugurate the first road tunnel under the Bosphorus in Istanbul. The president admitted that the killing of 14 Turkish soldiers on Saturday in an attack blamed on Kurdish militants had cast a shadow over the opening. But he added: "The fight against terror will continue without a break and we will make our investments, bring our projects to life and reach our targets."

Trabzonspor have traditionally been the only club from outside Istanbul to challenge the domination of teams from the mega city, picking up six Turkish league titles. But the last of those titles dates back to the 1983-84 season and the club has been going through a thin period, currently only standing in 11th place in the league. Trabzonspor are also known for their fanatical fan base who frequently allege a bias in favor of the Istanbul sides and are proud to be hated by everyone else in Turkey.

Their standout player of all time was Turkish international goalkeeper Senol Gunes who played a role in winning all of its titles, managed Turkey to third place in the 2002 World Cup and is now enjoying success as manager of Besiktas in Istanbul. There were suggestions that the stadium could be named after Erdogan - who hails from the nearby Rize region - but the president confirmed the honor had gone to Gunes. "We decided to name it Senol Gunes stadium," he said, donning a scarf in the club's claret and blue colors. — AFP

CANADIAN TOURIST AMONG 10 KILLED...

Continued from Page 1

HH the Amir also prayed to Allah Almighty to bestow his mercy on the dead, and grant the wounded speedy recovery. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to the Jordanian monarch.

The first attack took place when a police patrol went to check on a fire that had broken out in a house in Karak, the general security department said. "As soon as they reached the area, unknown gunmen who were inside the house opened fire on the patrol, wounding a policeman, and then fled by car," it said in a statement carried by the official Petra news agency. "Shortly afterwards, gunmen opened fire on another patrol without causing any casualties," it added.

At the same time, gunmen in the Crusader castle opened fire on the Karak police station, "wounding several policemen and passers-by" who were rushed to hospital. "Police and security forces have surrounded the castle and its vicinity and launched an operation to hunt down the gunmen," the statement said, adding that the search was still under way.

A senior security source said some people were trapped in a lower floor of the citadel when the gunmen took shelter there, but denied media reports that they were being held hostage. "There are no hostages. But some people who were on a lower floor were afraid of

leaving as the gunmen traded fire with the security forces," said the source who did not wish to be identified. He said that the gunmen were on a higher level inside the fortress.

The Jordan Tourism Board described the Karak citadel, which dates back to the 12th century and has withstood many sieges, as a "maze of stone-vaulted halls and endless passageways". The general security department statement said "five or six gunmen" were thought to be involved in the shootings. However, Prime Minister Hani Al-Malki, who was addressing parliament at the time of the shootings, said that "special forces and policemen are surrounding 10 gunmen holed up inside the Karak citadel".

It was not immediately clear who was behind the shootings, but Jordan has been hit by attacks in the past. Jordan is a leading member of the US-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group in neighboring Iraq and Syria. It has carried out air strikes targeting IS, and also hosts coalition troops on its territory. Maaz Al-Kassasbeh, a Jordanian fighter pilot, was captured by the jihadists when his plane went down in Syria in Dec 2014, and he was later burned alive in a cage. Karak is Kassasbeh's hometown.

In June, a suicide bombing claimed by IS killed seven border guards near the Syrian frontier. According to sources close to Islamists, almost 4,000 Jordanians have joined jihadist groups in Iraq and Syria, and an estimated 420 have been killed since 2011. — Agencies

MPs CALL TO AMEND SPORTS LAWS TO END...

Continued from Page 1

The government has repeatedly charged that Kuwaitis occupying leading posts in international sports organizations conspired to cause the suspension by complaining to them. In the past few months, the government dissolved the Kuwait Olympic Committee, Kuwait Football Association and several other federations citing financial and administrative violations. A decision on whether to hold the emergency session on Wednesday or not is expected today. The government should agree to the session for it to go ahead or it can demand delaying it.

Meanwhile, a number of opposition lawmakers directly warned Prime Minister HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah over the issue of reinstating citizenships revoked by the government for political reasons and over applying increased electricity and water charges. MP Mubarak Al-Hajraf warned the prime minister that patience was running out quickly and if the government does not show the required cooperation on the issue of citizenships, the prime minister must prepare himself for a grilling. He said that all should shoulder their responsibilities, because playing with cit-

izenships is like playing with the nation, which is totally unacceptable.

MP Mohammad Hayef said the period in which citizenships were revoked has ended and the citizenships must be returned in order to strengthen the internal front. He said that tension over the revoked citizenships must be defused, "otherwise we will be compelled to grill", adding that the Kuwaiti people know that citizenships were revoked because of a political struggle and this is unjust.

MP Mohammad Al-Dallal also insisted that the government should take steps to resolve this issue, because the citizenships were revoked for political reasons. Dallal, who is the head of the legal and legislative committee, said the panel will meet next Sunday to discuss a large number of legislations including the citizenship and DNA test laws. The committee will also discuss the controversy over the election of the deputy speaker and will take the opinion of legal experts.

MP Mohammad Al-Mutair called on the government to halt the implementation of a law to raise power and water charges from next year. Mutair gave the government until May to make the required amendment, otherwise he vowed to file to grill the prime minister.

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Focus

AS TRUMP RILES
CHINA, TAIWAN
TALLIES COSTS

Dr James J Zogby

Before getting too carried away with Taiwan's elevated status under a Donald Trump presidency, President Tsai Ing-wen might want to check her bank balance. Trump's suggestion that the 'one China' principle - that Taiwan is a part of China - was up for negotiation has already prompted sabre-rattling from Chinese state media and some in the military establishment. Taipei's ability to mitigate any military action by China will be severely limited by its weak economy and a tiny domestic arms industry that will take years to build up.

And even if the United States - Taiwan's sole arms supplier - agrees to sell the advanced weaponry the island needs to deter a Chinese attack, Taipei will struggle to pay the bill, government advisers and experts say. "The trend in defense spending is a 'slow rise,'" said Chieh Chung, a long-time defense expert and researcher with the National Policy Foundation in Taipei, a think tank. "There isn't a lot of flexibility in government finances."

The ability of Taiwan to defend itself, and the willingness of the United States to help it, have been brought into sharp relief since President-elect Trump accepted an unprecedented phone call from President Tsai early this month. Tsai has never conceded the 'one China' principle and Beijing has never renounced the use of force to take back what it deems a wayward province, particularly if Taiwan makes moves toward independence.

Despite that threat, Taiwan has spent less than 2 percent of its half-a-trillion dollar economy on its defense needs in recent years, leaving it woefully unable to match a free-spending China militarily. US-based think tank the Rand Corporation said in a research report last year the United States would find it far more challenging to come to Taiwan's aid in the event of an attack now compared to two decades ago, due to rapid advances in Chinese capabilities. In 1996, only two US air wings would have been needed to achieve air superiority at the outset of a conflict, but by 2017 that rises to 30, the report said.

Arms Sales

Selling arms might be more palatable, and there is certainly a need. Two of Taiwan's four submarines date to World War Two, while the two other Dutch-built boats have been in service for nearly 30 years. But Chieh estimates submarines would cost Taiwan more than \$2 billion each, requiring a special budget fundraising via government bonds - a more expensive prospect in a rising interest rate environment.

Any arms sale would also risk provoking Beijing. Retired Major-General Luo Yuan, a widely read Chinese military figure, told Hong Kong's Phoenix Television on Monday that Taiwan buying US arms could be considered a hostile act. "If you want to buy one set of anti-missile systems from the United States, then we'll set up four in response on the other side of the Taiwan Strait, so that you will know pain, that you can't buy security, and that what you're actually buying is danger," he said.

Indigenous Defense Industry

Buying big-ticket items like subs would also be a tough sell at home because Tsai has made developing an indigenous defense industry a key policy plank to create jobs and pump up the sluggish economy, currently growing at less than 2 percent. Taiwan has previously developed its own missiles and also manufactured over 100 of its own fighter jets in the 1990s before the program withered. The navy has just begun programs to build a few small warships, and next on Taiwan's list are submarines and advanced jet trainers.

But critics say it will take years to build a battle-ready fleet, costs would likely be higher than buying second-hand equipment and there is almost no export market to sustain programs for Taiwanese defense goods. Taiwan's reliance on the United States is therefore key. "Beijing knows that we have obligations to help Taiwan defend itself and resist coercion, as enshrined in the Taiwan Relations Act, and that we make decisions about our defense relationship with Taiwan based on the threat that China poses," said Daniel Blumenthal, director of Asian Studies at the American Enterprise Institute, and a former US defense official.

Trump's campaign rhetoric, however, indicated he may be less likely to go to war over someone else's defense while recent comments suggest Taiwan may be a pawn in his trade negotiations with China. Madeleine Bordallo, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, says throwing China a "curveball" will make Beijing think twice about issues such as Taiwan. Bordallo backed a defense bill supporting senior military exchanges between the United States and Taiwan that was approved by Congress this month. "I believe that different types of engagement with Taiwan offer us a way to throw that curveball in the coming years," she told an audience at a security conference in Taipei this week. "Further engagement with Taiwan is important to achieving the strategic goal." — Reuters

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HOTEL MAIDS IN SPAIN REBEL AGAINST LOW SALARIES

Spain is enjoying a surge in visitors, but hotel maids are not reaping the rewards and are rebelling against their low salaries, which can be as little as two euros to clean a room. The country, which welcomed over 68 million foreign tourists last year - its third consecutive year of record numbers - employs around 100,000 hotel maids, according to union estimates. Over the past two years more and more maids have been challenging their contracts in courts and coming out in the press with tales of exploitation in the world's third most visited country.

Pepita Garcia Lupianez, who has worked for 40 years in the seaside resort of Torremolinos on the Costa del Sol, is one of the leaders of the fight despite enjoying better conditions than most. She had a full-time contract and earns 1,300 euros (\$1,400) per month, far above the minimum wage of €764.40. "I am almost ashamed when I meet with colleagues employed by subcontractors who have contracts of four to six hours and work in reality eight or ten hours," said Lupianez, 59, a representative with Spain's biggest union, Comisiones Obreras (CCOO). "Their employers tell them: 'Until you have finished, you can't leave!'"

Lupianez took part in a protest in the southern city of Malaga Thursday against a reform of Spain's labour code in 2012 which maids say has led to lower salaries. The reform made firing workers easier and cheaper and weakened collective bargaining agreements. Outsourcing of cleaning to less expensive firms has since become widespread. "In numerous hotels directly-hired staff have been replaced" by employees of service firms, said Ernest Canada, the author of a book on hotel maids. Maids who work for such firms are not governed by the collective labor agreement for housekeeping staff, but the one for the cleaning sector, and are paid up to 40 percent less than their peers, according to the CCOO.

400 rooms per month

"We say: 'Enough exploitation!'," said Carolina Martin, a 46-year-old maid in the southwestern city of Seville who has filed a complaint against her previous employer. "I earned just 700 euros to clean 400 rooms per month, they gave us more or less two euros per room we cleaned," she said. She now works 30 hours a week at a four star hotel in Seville, earning €618 a month. The schedule leaves her in "constant stress" with no time to go to the bathroom during her shifts, she said.

The maids often win their legal battles. Of the 58 collective agreements which have been contested since May 2015, 46 have been annulled, according to Spain's two largest unions, CCOO and the UGT. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's conservative government defends its reform of the

labour code, crediting it with a drop in Spain's jobless rate to below 20 percent from a record high 27 percent in 2013.

Spain's hotel and retail sector accounted for nearly half of all jobs created this year, according to a study by Adecco, the world's biggest temp agency. But most new jobs are temporary. One in three Spaniards is employed on a fixed-term contract and the International Monetary Fund on Tuesday identified this large proportion of short-term contracts as a weakness. It urged Spain to increase incentives for employers to award staff permanent contracts in a preliminary annual review of Spain's economy.

Change hotel star ranking

Maids on short-term contracts are becoming more and more common at hotels at PortAventura, one of the largest theme parks in Europe, near the northeastern city of Tarragona, said Esther Rodriguez, a maid who works there

on a permanent contract. They are "young girls, sometimes from Morocco, Senegal, Nigeria, who earn 300 euros less than us," the 54-year-old said. The president of AC Hotels by Marriott, Antonio Catalan, made headlines last month when he publicly criticized the labor law reform and its impact on hotel maids.

"Today I can fire someone by paying them compensation equivalent to 20 days' pay for each year worked and then start to outsource. This is what those who exploit maids do," he told a business forum. The Spanish hotel federation declined to comment on the issue. Some maids are distributing fliers to hotel clients to explain their plight. "It's the best way to put pressure on hotel owners," said Angela, 54, who was fired from a big hotel chain for refusing to be outsourced. She is lobbying to ensure staff working conditions are taken into account when awarding a hotel star ranking, along with criteria such as bed size. — AFP



Spanish hotel maid Pepita Garcia Lupianez holds union flags as she takes part in a protest against a reform of Spain's labor code in 2012, which maids say has led to lower salaries, in Malaga on Dec 15, 2016. — AFP

THE EMPTY DAYS OF IMPEACHED PRESIDENT PARK

South Korea's presidential Blue House has been something of a family home for Park Geun-Hye, but the luxury residence has now become a place of solitary confinement for the impeached, isolated leader. Park has twice called the Blue House home: First as the daughter of late military strongman Park Chung-Hee and then as president herself - a cumulative period of 20 years.

Currently president in nothing but name and with no official duties to perform, Park faces a months-long empty schedule within the walls of the complex as she waits for the final act of her impeachment drama to play out. The only regular encroachment from outside is the deafening chanting of hundreds of thousands of protestors who have taken to the streets of Seoul every Saturday for the past two months to demand Park either resign or be removed.

Ensnared by a corruption scandal involving an old friend, Park was impeached by parliament just over a week ago - a move that stripped away all her substantial presidential powers and transferred them to her prime minister. She is allowed to retain her title and stay at the Blue House while the Constitutional Court considers whether to validate the impeachment - a process that could take up to six months.

Restricted movement

But her movements are restricted to the residential part of the 250,000-sq-m compound. Her offices, some 200 m from her living quarters, are off limits. A planned trilateral summit with the leaders of China and Japan that was supposed to be held this month in Tokyo has been indefinitely postponed. Aides say Park spends her time resting and preparing her impeachment defence for the court, but otherwise there are scant details about her activities.

"She must feel like the whole world has turned its back on her," said Lee Jun-Han, a politics professor at Incheon University. "I don't think she has the luxury of travelling outside the Blue House, or even resting in peace at home,"

Lee said. Park's father Park Chung-Hee ruled the country with an iron fist from 1961-79 and his eldest child enjoyed a pampered life, although in her memoirs she described her early days at the Blue House as "prison-like". She never married and has no children, and critics say her sheltered upbringing left Park aloof and out of touch.

'Lonely life'

In a televised apology she gave in early November as the corruption scandal snowballed, Park spoke of her "lonely life" as president and how it had led her to place too much trust in her long-time confidante, Choi Soon-Sil. Park's impeachment focused on charges that she colluded with Choi in forcing a number of South Korean conglomerates to donate tens of millions of dollars to two dubious non-profit foundations that Choi controlled and allegedly supported.

Park acknowledged letting her guard down with Choi, who had helped her through "difficult times" as a single female president who had lost both her parents to assassins and was estranged from her siblings. In testimony to an ongoing parliamentary investigation into the Choi scandal, Park's aides cemented the image of her as a solitary figure who liked eating alone. One former chief of staff who served Park for two years said he had often gone an entire week without meeting her at all - an experience echoed by other senior policy advisors.

"Park was almost always in her residence, whether on Sundays or a weekday, unless there were public events like a cabinet meeting or a meeting with advisors," a former presidential chief said in a recent interview. Park's staffers now report to the prime minister - and acting president - Hwang Kyo-Ahn, who is expected to give the annual year-end national presidential address.

For the Blue House press corps, Park's blank days have left them with similarly blank notebooks. "The number of reporters in the pressroom has shrunk a lot - maybe only

a third are showing up," said the correspondent of one national newspaper who spoke on condition of anonymity. "There are no more regular briefings by the spokesman. He only comes to the pressroom when there's a particular issue regarding the president," the correspondent said. — AFP



FOURCADE WINS RACE IN BIATHLON W CUP



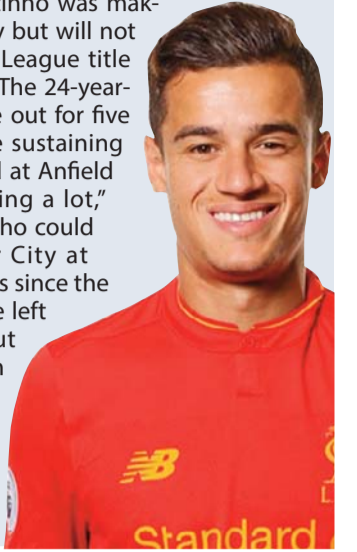
NOVE MESTO: Martin Fourcade's domination of the men's biathlon World Cup continued yesterday with the defending champion and overall leader's victory in the 15-kilometer mass start. Dropping to 14th after missing one target at the second shooting range, the Frenchman didn't waste time in overcoming one penalty lap. He pulled away after the next shooting to cross the finish line in 36 minutes, 18.9 seconds. Germany's Simon Schempp finished 8.3 seconds behind in second, while Anton Babikov of Russia was third, 9.4 back. Fourcade also won the sprint on Thursday and pursuit on Saturday and claimed seven of the individual eight races this season. Fourcade has a 158-point lead over Russia's Anton Shipulin in the overall standings. — AP

MILITO QUILTS AS ARGENTINE COACHING EXODUS CONTINUES

BUENOS AIRES: Former Barcelona and Argentina defender Gabriel Milito has quit as coach of Independiente after Saturday's 1-0 home defeat by Banfield in the Argentine first division. Milito, who took charge in May and as a centre back helped Independiente win their last league title in 2002, is the 15th coach to leave a club in Argentina's 30-team championship since the beginning of the season in August. "I gave of my best but it didn't work out. I think this is the time to step aside," the 36-year-old, younger brother of former Inter Milan and Racing Club striker Diego Milito, told reporters. Independiente were jeered and whistled off the Estadio Libertadores de America pitch by fans angered by insipid performances in a poor recent run which had delivered two wins in their last seven matches. They go into the summer break with 22 points from 14 matches, including six wins. Independiente, who lifted the last of their record seven crowns in the elite South American Copa Libertadores 32 years ago, last won a title in the second-string Copa Sudamericana in 2010. —Reuters

KLOPP WON'T RUSH BACK IMPROVING COUTINHO

LONDON: Influential midfielder Philippe Coutinho was making encouraging progress from an ankle injury but will not be rushed back to boost Liverpool's Premier League title aspirations, manager Juergen Klopp has said. The 24-year-old Brazilian, who was initially expected to be out for five to six weeks, has been on the sidelines since sustaining the injury during the 2-0 win over Sunderland at Anfield last month. "It would be cool. He is improving a lot," Klopp told British media when asked if Coutinho could be back for the clash against Manchester City at Anfield on New Year's Eve. "He is off his crutches since the West Ham United game (on Dec. 11), when we left the stadium he was walking in front without them." Coutinho said he has set his sights on making his return against City. Klopp, however, insisted the midfielder will not be rushed back into action. "We will have to see," the German manager added. "No idea at the moment." — Reuters



KUWAIT SPORTS DAY SUPPORTS DISTINGUISHED ATHLETES: KOC

KUWAIT: Organizing the First Kuwait sports day buttresses Kuwait's distinguished athletes, Chairman of Kuwait Olympic Committee (KOC) Sheikh Fahad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah stressed Saturday. Speaking in statements to reporters after concluding the event at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, Sheikh Fahad said the KOC would continue backing and organizing sports activities and programs that serve Kuwaiti sons and daughters. A large number of sports federations, clubs and committees took part in today's event which was held under the auspices of Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. Sheikh Fahad lauded efforts of male and female athletes in today's competitions that made brilliant performances in different competitions. Meanwhile, Chairman of the Kuwait Shooting Association and Arab Shooting Federation Duaij Al-Otaibi said that KOC intends to hold this sports event annual-

ly. He welcomed the event held over nine days and in which 14 sports federations like Judo, shooting, athletics, tennis and others took part. The KOC's initiative to organize this sports day comes in implementation of the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah that call for taking care of athletes, he noted. He extolled the support of Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud that helped sports federation and clubs share contests. Al-Otaibi pointed out that the KOC would seek to hold an international sports conference to discuss some mechanisms and strategies in order to develop Kuwait's sports movement through joint cooperation amongst all State's institutions, including the legislative and executive authorities, and sports bodies. He said appropriate solutions would be provided for the development of youth action and sports in Kuwait. The event ended with honoring all winners in all competitions. —KUNA



—Photos by Abdellatif Sharra



STARS HALT FLYERS' WINNING STREAK AT 10

TORONTO: Adam Cracknell scored the tiebreaking goal early in the third period to lead the Dallas Stars to a 3-1 victory over Philadelphia on Saturday, ending the Flyers' 10-game winning streak.

Chicago beat St. Louis, Dennis Rasmussen, Brian Campbell, Niklas Hjalmarsson and Artemi Panarin also scored for the Blackhawks, who have won have four straight.

RED WINGS 6, DUCKS 4

Tomas Tatar got his first career hat trick to help Detroit break out of a slump with a win over Anaheim. Tatar got his third goal early in the third period, putting the puck on both sides of his stick before flipping it over John Gibson.

WILD 4, COYOTES 1

Darcy Kuemper stopped 27 shots in his first start in nearly three weeks as Minnesota beat Arizona for its seventh straight win. Ryan Suter and Troy Graovac both ended goal-scoring droughts of at least 13 games while Chris Stewart and Eric Stoll also scored for the Wild.

CANADIENS 2, CAPITALS 1

Carey Price bounced back from getting pulled the night before, making 20 saves as Montreal snapped Washington's six-game winning streak. Price returned to his usual, elite form while Artturi Lehkonen and Jeff Petry scored for Montreal.

RANGERS 2, PREDATORS 1, SO

Rookie Jimmy Vesey and Mats Zuccarello each scored in the shootout as New York beat Nashville and the NHL's best road team added yet another win to its record. Vesey came out first to heavy boos from Nashville fans upset he chose to go to free agency rather than sign with the franchise that drafted him in 2012.

BLACKHAWKS 6, BLUES 4

Vinnie Hinostroza scored a late tiebreaking goal and Patrick Kane broke out of a 10-game goal-scoring drought to help

HURRICANES 2, SABRES 1, SO

Lee Stempniak and Sebastian Aho scored on Carolina's first two shootout attempts to lift the Hurricanes over Buffalo. Cam Ward made 23 saves and stopped two shots in the shootout for Carolina, while Joakim Nordstrom had a first-period goal for the Hurricanes.

SENATORS 3, DEVILS 1

Derick Brassard scored the go-ahead goal early in the second period and Mike Condon stopped 29 shots as Ottawa beat New Jersey to snap a season-high three-game losing streak. Bobby Ryan scored in the first period and Zack Smith added an empty-netter for the Senators.

OILERS 3, LIGHTNING 2, SO

Connor McDavid scored the decisive goal in the shootout as Edmonton beat Tampa Bay. Milan Lucic and Leon Draisaitl scored in regulation for the Oilers while Jonathan Drouin and Tyler Johnson had goals for the Lightning.

NHL results/standings

Edmonton 3, Tampa Bay 2 (SO); Chicago 6, St. Louis 4; NY Rangers 2, Nashville 1 (SO); Toronto 2, Pittsburgh 1 (OT); Ottawa 3, New Jersey 1; Detroit 6, Anaheim 4; Montreal 2, Washington 1; Carolina 2, Buffalo 1 (SO); Dallas 3, Philadelphia 1; Minnesota 4, Arizona 1.

Table with 7 columns: Conference, Division, Team, W, L, OTL, GF, GA, PTS. Lists standings for Eastern, Central, Pacific, and Atlantic divisions.



TORONTO: James van Riemsdyk #25 of the Toronto Maple Leafs skates with the puck against the Pittsburgh Penguins during an NHL game at the Air Canada Centre yesterday in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The Maple Leafs defeated the Penguins 2-1 in overtime. — AFP



BRISBANE: Pakistan's batsman Asad Shafiq (R) plays a shot as Australia's wicketkeeper Mathew Wade (L) looks on during the fourth day of the day-night cricket Test match between Australia and Pakistan in Brisbane yesterday. — AFP

FIGHTING PAKISTAN RESIST AUSTRALIA'S VICTORY DRIVE

BRISBANE: Asad Shafiq scored a thrilling century as Pakistan put up a spirited resistance to Australia yesterday, frustrating the hosts' attempts to wrap up the first Test with a day to spare.

The tourists, who have lost their last nine Tests in Australia, refused to buckle despite the loss of key batsmen Yousif Khan, Azhar Ali and skipper Misbah-ul-Haq.

At the close on a storm-hit day, with Shafiq leading the way, Pakistan had just two wickets left and were 382 for eight—the highest fourth innings in a Test at the Gabba.

They trail the home side by 107 heading into today's final day. "Asad Shafiq was struggling and he came back with a bang," Azhar said. "We really enjoyed his innings and the way he batted, it was a really special knock, and also special how Mohammad Amir and Wahab Riaz batted as well."

Steve Smith gave Shafiq a life on 72, dropping a clear two-handed chance at second slip off Mitchell Starc's bowling when three regulation overs were left in the day. Play was extended by an extra half-hour to try to secure a result but the tourists held firm.

Shafiq took the game to Australia and led the resistance with a belligerent knock including 10 fours and a six, spiced with some lively running between wickets.

Mohammad Amir, in the first year of his return to international cricket following a five-year ban for spot-fixing, hit his highest Test score in a stubborn 92-run seventh-wicket partnership with Shafiq.

Amir's previous best was 39 not out against England at The Oval in August, but he fell late in the session for 48 off 63 balls with five fours.

The Australian bowlers endured a long grind, with a three-hour final session ending only at 10:09 pm, after a fierce storm lashed the ground just before tea. The bowlers, who decimated Pakistan by taking seven wickets for 24 in the first innings, were frustrated by a lack of assistance from the pink ball under lights in the second. "It probably didn't go to plan. No doubt we wanted to finish off the game today. Hats off to Pakistan, they batted particularly well," said Australia bowling coach David Saker.

"We're still in a very good strong position. I'd prefer to be in our position than theirs. We've got to come back and get two quick wickets tomorrow."

Australia are defending an unbeaten run of 27 Tests at the Gabba. Their last defeat here was in 1988 to the West Indies.

The hosts went into the final night session needing five wickets for victory and removed the first-innings top-scorer Sarfraz Ahmed for 24. Starc scattered his stumps with an inswinger in the 88th over, his third wicket, and Jackson Bird had Amir caught behind in the 107th over. But number nine Wahab Riaz hit a blazing 30 off 56 balls with two fours and two sixes.

Younis Khan had earlier also kept the bowlers at bay but was out to a rash shot 30 minutes before the dinner break. The 112-Test campaigner fell to an ill-judged reverse sweep off spinner Nathan Lyon, the ball ballooning off the back of his bat for Smith to take an easy catch. Starc persisted with a short-pitched plan after a 90-minute storm delay at tea. It finally paid off when Azhar Ali tried to flick a rising ball down to fine leg, only to edge to Matthew Wade.

Azhar faced 179 balls for his 71 and put on 91 for the third wicket with Younis. Younis, out for a first-ball duck in the first innings, took 20 balls to get off the mark with a streaky shot through the slips cordon to the boundary. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard table for the Australia vs Pakistan Test match in Brisbane, showing first and second innings for both teams, extras, and bowling figures.

RAHUL OUT ON 199, INDIA REACHES 391-4 VS ENGLAND

CHENNAI: Lokesh Rahul was dismissed one run short of his double century yesterday as the series took a familiar turn with India comfortably reaching 391-4 at stumps on day three of the fifth test to trail England by 86 runs.

Rahul hit a career-best 199 before lobbing a simple catch shortly before the close of play to Jos Buttler at point off Adil Rashid in

all, Rahul faced 311 balls, hitting 16 fours and three sixes. It was his fourth test century and would have been his maiden double ton.

Karun Nair was unbeaten on 71 in India's first innings, while Murali Vijay was 17 not out.

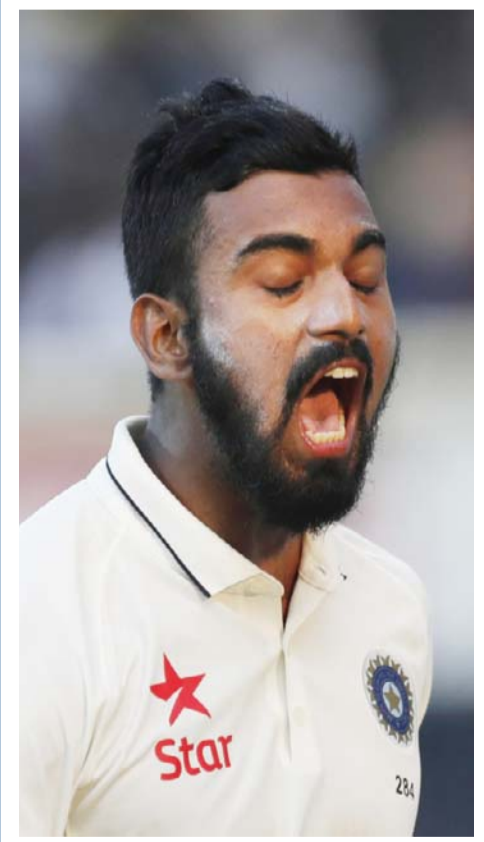
England was all out for 477 in its first innings. In the afternoon session, England had claimed the prize wicket of Virat Kohli for 15 but then stumbled against Rahul and Nair, who took their fourth-wicket partnership to 161 runs, adding another 116 runs in the final session. Both batsmen looked at ease, scoring just under four per over. England took the second new ball in the 85th over and almost immediately England captain Alastair Cook dropped Nair - on 34 not out - at slip off Jake Ball.

India crossed the 300-mark in the 86th over. Nair then reached his maiden test half-century off 98 balls. Rahul, meanwhile, went past his previous best of 158 against West Indies in Jamaica in August this year.

He went on to the highest test score for an Indian opener against England in India, when he overtook Budhi Kunderan's 192, also scored in Chennai in 1964.

Rahul became only the second Indian batsman after Mohammad Azharuddin to be dismissed on 199 runs, who recorded this unwanted feat against Sri Lanka at Kanpur in 1986. Injured opener Vijay then came out to bat, and survived a DRS appeal for lbw instantly. Nair too had survived a similar shout earlier on. They took India to stumps without further loss. India had reached 256-3 at tea after England dismissed Kohli, who was caught at extra cover off Stuart Broad.

After resuming overnight on 60-0, India went to lunch at 173-1 after Rahul and Parthiv Patel (71) shared an opening partnership of 152. It was the highest first-wicket stand for India at home against England. The previous best was 135 runs by Sunil Gavaskar and Farokh Engineer in Mumbai in 1973. India has a winning 3-0 lead in the five-test series. — AP



CHENNAI: India's Lokesh Rahul, gestures as he leaves ground after being dismissed by England's Adil Rashid for 199 runs. — AP

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard table for the India vs England Test match in Chennai, showing first and second innings for both teams, extras, and bowling figures.

Sports

Kuwait sports
day supports
distinguished
athletes: KOCVeteran Hopkins
knocked out
of ring in
career finale

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COSTA RESCUES BAYERN AGAINST BASEMENT SIDE

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YOKOHAMA: Real Madrid's players pose after they won the Club World Cup football final match between Kashima Antlers of Japan and Real Madrid of Spain at Yokohama International stadium in Yokohama yesterday. — AFP

RONALDO TREBLE FIRES REAL TO CLUB WORLD CUP

YOKOHAMA: Cristiano Ronaldo smashed a hat-trick as Real Madrid survived a colossal scare to beat Japan's Kashima Antlers 4-2 and lift the Club World Cup yesterday. A Gaku Shibasaki double briefly threatened one of football's greatest ever shocks after Karim Benzema had given Real the early advantage in Yokohama. But Ronaldo equalised from the penalty spot before pouncing twice in extra time to give the Spanish giants their second world title in three years, and fifth in total.

"Bloody hell, what a game!" said a breathless Ronaldo. "We had to suffer, but that's what finals are all about. "People always expect more of Cristiano," he added, speaking of himself in the third person.

"It has been an unforgettable year-winning the Champions League, the Super Cup and the Euros with Portugal. "And to score three more goals and to have

such a perfect end to this dream year, it's incredible."

The victory extended Real's club record unbeaten run to 37 matches in all competitions, while French coach Zinedine Zidane surpassed Fabio Capello's record for their best start to a season.

But the European champions, yet to be defeated in 26 games this campaign, were forced to dig deep by an Antlers side who finished third in the J-League before winning the championship final.

Benzema's toe-poked opener was cancelled out on the stroke of halftime by Shibasaki, who took advantage of some calamitous defending from Raphael Varane to lash in a sharp volley. The Japan midfielder sparked wild celebrations among a crowd of 68,000 seven minutes after the break when he smashed home a left-foot shot from long distance.

CLINICAL FINISH

Kashima's lead was short-lived, however, as Ronaldo levelled from the spot after Lucas Vazquez was bundled over by Shuto Yamamoto.

Ronaldo, who scooped his fourth Ballon d'Or last week, put Real back in front with a clinical finish eight minutes into extra time after a clever pass from Benzema.

And the Portuguese superstar completed his hat-trick-the first in a Club World Cup final-six minutes later with another poacher's strike to break Japanese hearts.

"The stats don't lie," said Ronaldo, who was also voted player of the tournament.

"I've had a spectacular season. People often criticise me but I'm used to it. I just carry on working on the pitch and get on with my job of winning titles."

European teams have now won the Club World Cup nine out of the last 10 years. But Real rode their luck at times in a pulsating final, not least when Zambian referee Janny Sikazwe chose not to show captain Sergio Ramos a second yellow card late on for what appeared a cynical block.

"The referee lacked courage, which was regrettable," said Kashima coach Masatada Ishii. "My players were brave, their attitude was great and I feel we have grown as a club through this tournament."

Zidane, who won club world titles as a player with Real in 2002 and Juventus in 1996, paid tribute to his players. "Kashima surprised us a little with their speed and physicality," he said. "But when we have struggled this season we have always believed in ourselves and found a way to win." — AFP



MANCHESTER: Manchester City's David Silva is surrounded by Arsenal players during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Arsenal at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, England, yesterday. — AP

MAN CITY RALLIES FOR 2-1 WIN OVER ARSENAL IN EPL

MANCHESTER: Raheem Sterling capped a rousing second-half comeback by Manchester City with the winning goal as Arsenal squandered a lead to lose 2-1 for the second time in five days in the English Premier League yesterday. The England winger collected Kevin De Bruyne's sensational cross-field pass before cutting inside and driving home a low finish in the 71st minute at Etihad Stadium.

Arsenal led through Theo Walcott's fifth-minute strike - another goal that raised questions about City's defensive weaknesses - before Leroy Sane equalized in the 47th with his first goal for City.

While City moved back to within seven points of Chelsea, Arsenal dropped nine points off the leaders. It has been a poor week for Arsene Wenger's wide, which lost from 1-0 up at Everton on Tuesday

in another poor display that raised questions about its title credentials.

The defense has been City's major weakness under Pep Guardiola, and the way it was opened by Arsenal for Walcott's goal was alarming.

Hector Bellerin was allowed to power up the field unchallenged from right back and pass the ball to Sanchez, who had dropped deep to also find space between City defense and midfield. Sanchez's reverse pass located Walcott between two defenders and the winger composed himself before slipping a low shot past goalkeeper Claudio Bravo.

City was often open at the back while its build-up play was slow from the central midfield, where Yaya Toure and Fernando were deputizing for the

suspended Fernandinho and the injured Ilkay Gundogan. Sterling, a winger playing as a lone striker as a replacement for Sergio Aguero, headed wide moments after Walcott's goal but Arsenal's defense held out comfortably until the equalizer, which was also notable for poor defending.

Silva clipped a first-time pass over the top for Sane - who may have been slightly offside - to race clear and sidefoot home for a first goal in his 13th appearance for City.

Suddenly it was all City, whose tempo and urgency noticeably increased in the second half.

Sane was denied in a one-on-one opportunity by Cech, who tipped aside De Bruyne's deflected shot. De Bruyne was growing in influence and it was his stunning pass that set up the winner. — AP

ROSE CAPS SPURS FIGHTBACK



LONDON: Danny Rose capped Tottenham's comeback as they edged out Burnley 2-1 to keep alive their Champions League aspirations yesterday. Mauricio Pochettino's side were forced to come from behind after Ashley Barnes had opened the scoring for Burnley at White Hart Lane.

Normal service was resumed when Dele Alli almost instantly equalised, but Burnley, despite their struggles away from home, would not roll over and it took until the 71st minute until Rose won it. Burnley were left frustrated, especially with Moussa Sissoko fortunate to escape a red card for a high challenge before he created the winning goal that moved Tottenham within one point of the top four.

It looked a different story early on as Tottenham should have been ahead within a minute. Rose fed Harry Kane who in turn freed Alli but the midfielder was way off target as he bore down on Tom Heaton's goal. Besides a point at Manchester United, thanks to Heaton's heroics, Burnley had been a soft touch. They would need some luck on their side to keep Tottenham at bay. And so it proved early on as Kane dragged his shot wide and Christian Eriksen saw his volley deflected just over.

But Tottenham had looked sloppy at the back and they almost paid for an error in the 11th minute.

Kyle Walker gifted possession to Stephen Ward and the left-back where Andre Gray's low shot was kept out by the shins of Hugo Lloris.

It was a chance Burnley needed to take given they had set themselves up to defend deep and soak up the pressure from the home side.

Burnley didn't need asking again as Barnes slid them into a shock 21st minute lead. This was something of a collector's item; their first away goal scored in open play this season.

PERFECTION

When Tottenham's Mousa Dembele diverted George Boyd's pass into Barnes' path the striker could not miss as he stabbed him home from close-range.

The lead lasted just six minutes as Alli hauled Spurs level. Walker delivered a cross into the penalty area where Alli timed his run to perfection to slide home the equaliser.

Tottenham were bossing proceedings and Heaton was fortunate to see Kane's shot bounce off his legs and wide. The second-half maintained the same pattern with Eriksen, fresh from scoring twice in the previous home match with Hull, seeing his long-range shot fly just over Heaton's crossbar.

Eriksen then should have done better than divert Rose's 53rd minute cross straight at Heaton.

Alli again came close but Tottenham were becoming increasingly frustrated as Eriksen's pile driver was palmed out by the busy Heaton and just out of Kane's path.

But Spurs would finally break down the stubborn visitors thanks to Rose's 71st minute strike. A quick break led by substitute Sissoko found it's way to the England left-back in space to drive home.

It was painful for Burnley as, just moments earlier, Sissoko was relieved to receive just a yellow card rather than a second red of his short Tottenham career for a high challenge on Ward. — AFP

Kuwait Times 55th Anniversary Small & Times

BUSINESS

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China aims blow at iron rice bowl in radical shift

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NBK launches 'NBK Tap & Pay'

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Mutawa Alkazi to launch 2 new GAC car models

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GCC FOLLOWS FED RATE HIKE TO AVERT CURRENCY PRESSURE

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CARACAS: Bolivarian militia members take part in a rally to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Liberator Simon Bolivar, in Caracas on Saturday. — AFP

VENEZUELA HALTS REMOVING CURRENCY BILLS

MASSIVE PROTESTS FORCE MADURO TO EXTEND USE OF 100 BOLIVAR BILLS

CARACAS: With protests rocking his unpopular government, embattled President Nicolas Maduro delayed until January 2 taking Venezuela's highest denomination bill out of circulation. The 100 bolivar bills would temporarily remain legal tender, Maduro said Saturday, but the borders with Colombia and Brazil will remain closed to hit what he claims are "mafias" hoarding Venezuelan cash abroad in a US-backed plot to destabilize the country.

"You can calmly continue to use the 100 bill for your purchases and your activities," Maduro said at a meeting with officials broadcast on state television.

The bill is worth about 15 US cents at the highest official rate, and until recently accounted for 77 percent of the cash in circulation in Venezuela. Venezuela has the world's highest inflation rate, set to hit 475 percent this year according to the IMF. The government is trying to introduce new bills in denominations up to 200 times higher than the old ones, but the plan derailed when Maduro banned the 100 bolivar note before the new bills arrived.

Four airplanes with the new currency set to arrive from abroad were delayed by international sabotage, Maduro said. He did not say

where the money was coming from, or what type of sabotage.

A very stressful Christmas

Venezuelans stood in long lines at banks all week to meet a Friday deadline to exchange their currency. When the deadline extension was announced people queued up again on Saturday. "I don't agree with this, I've had to come all the way here with my miserable amount of cash to the BCV [Venezuelan Central Bank] in order to get money to eat. This is madness, I'm tired of it," said Bismary Rivero, a 39 year-old homemaker, told AFP.

Rivero said that she traveled 450 kilometers (280 miles) from her village in the eastern state of Monagas to exchange her money. In a country with one of the highest rates of violent crime in the world, shoppers must carry unwieldy wads of bills to pay for their purchases.

Retirees had complained for months that their pensions were paid in unmanageable 50- and 20-bolivar denominations. Rioting and angry protests erupted in several Venezuelan cities as the chaotic reform left people without cash to buy food or Christmas presents.

Opposition politicians said Saturday that four people were killed in rioting in the capital of the southern state of Bolivar, though officials have not confirmed those figures. Unrest however was such that the Ciudad Bolivar mayor ordered a curfew banning "motorcycles, pedestrians and private vehicles" until late Monday.

The pro-Maduro state governor, Francisco Rangel Gomez, said on Twitter that 135 people were arrested for looting, and that soldiers were deployed "to re-establish order."

In Guasdalito, in the central-western state of Apure, three state bank offices were torched, an incident Maduro late Friday blamed on unnamed opposition politicians.

Venezuela economy unraveling

Maduro has presided over an unraveling of Venezuela's oil-rich economy as crude prices have plunged. He and predecessor Hugo Chavez have made the economy increasingly state-led. Now the import-dependent country is desperately short of food, medicine and basic household goods. A recession driven by plunging prices for Venezuela's crucial crude oil exports has led to shortages of food and medicine.

Citizens face long queues to buy basic supplies and inflation has soared. Deadly riots and looting have broken out over recent months. Analysts have warned there is a risk of unrest in

Venezuela, which Human Rights Watch says is in the grips of a "humanitarian crisis." Anti-government protests in 2014 led to clashes that left 43 people dead. — AFP



CARACAS: A man wears a red beret with the image of late Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez during a rally in Caracas on Saturday. — AP

GULF, EGYPT INCH UP AS VOLUME SHRINKS

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Stock markets in the Gulf posted small gains yesterday after crude oil prices climbed back towards 17-month highs at the end of last week, but trading volumes shrank across the region. Foreign buyers continued to bid up shares in Egypt. Brent futures rose 2.2 percent to settle at \$55.21 a barrel on Friday after Goldman Sachs boosted its price forecast for 2017 and producers showed signs of adhering to a global deal to reduce output.

Saudi Arabian petrochemical shares were bid up yesterday with all 14 listed producers advancing, pulling the main Saudi stock index 0.7 percent higher. Mid-sized producer Sahara Petrochemical was the top performer, jumping 7.1 percent. Saudi Cable Co rose 2.5 percent after saying its Turkish subsidiary had won a \$50 million order, with the financial impact to start appearing by the end

of the second quarter next year.

Commodities transportation company National Shipping Co (Bahri) climbed 1.5 percent after it announced its board had proposed a cash dividend of 2.5 riyals per share for 2016, in line with 2015. Its dividend yield is at 6.0 percent, according to Thomson Reuters data. Dubai's main index closed almost flat as trading volume fell to the lowest in five weeks, suggesting that many institutional traders, which played a major role last week, were largely absent yesterday.

Emaar Malls Group rebounded 2.7 percent but builder Drake & Scull, the most heavily traded share, slipped 0.4 percent. Blue chips helped carry Abu Dhabi's index 0.8 percent higher. Dana Gas rose 1.9 percent and First Gulf Bank climbed 2.0 percent. Stock markets in Bahrain and Qatar were closed for national holidays. — Reuters

BRITISH COMPANIES ABSORB BREXIT SHOCK

LONDON: Richard Bunce says he felt sick when voters decided to take Britain out of the European Union in June, forcing him into an emergency review of his firm's expansion plans. But six months on, orders are strong and a new growth plan is in place, according to Bunce, managing director of Mec Com Ltd which sells devices to protect against power surges to clients such as Siemens and Alstom.

Far from the "profound and immediate economic shock" predicted by Britain's finance ministry in the event of a vote for Brexit, the economy has, so far, barely slowed. Bunce expects tougher times. But like many other executives trying to push their Brexit worries to one side, he invested nearly half a million pounds on a new laser-cutting machine over the summer.

Now he plans to spend another 750,000 pounds (\$932,000) on robotic metal-working equipment at Mec Com's plant near Stafford, a town 135 miles (217 km) northwest of London, after landing a big contract with a British food processing firm. "We believe that the opportunities we have got will, one way or another, find a way around Brexit," Bunce said.

To be sure, what Brexit means is far from clear. Britain is due to begin its two-year divorce process

with the EU early next year. Agreeing its new relationship could take a lot longer.

Bunce is taking precautions in case his firm ends up facing tariffs on its exports to the EU. He recently travelled to Romania to discuss the possibility of expanding his company's existing unit there in the event of a "hard" Brexit. "If that happens then we would need to find a way to switch very quickly, but as things stand we are planning for more UK business," he said.

Investments planned

Many other companies seem to be taking a similar approach, including technology giants Facebook and Google which have announced plans to create jobs in Britain in recent weeks. According to official data, businesses increased investment in the three months after the referendum. Manufacturing body EEF says the sector is its most upbeat in a year and a half, helped by an export-boosting fall in the pound since the vote, and investment and hiring plans are up.

In construction, office building has slowed but some companies plan to ramp up home-building next year. A survey by IHS Markit showed growth in the construction sector hit an eight-month high in November. Economists are now raising their

predictions for British economic growth next year, after many of them initially warned June's vote would quickly cause a recession.

The Bank of England in November made its biggest ever growth upgrade, saying the economy would grow by 1.4 percent in 2017, up from a forecast of 0.8 percent it made three months earlier.

Some investors think that even this looks too cautious. Percival Stanion, head of multi-asset funds at investment

firm Pictet, predicted growth of nearly 2 percent in 2017. "The expectations of a collapse in the UK were massively over-pessimistic," Stanion said, blaming the pro-EU views of many economists for skewing their forecasts. He said supermarkets and other retailers would probably absorb much of the inflationary hit caused by the fall in the value of the pound, rather than pass it on to customers.

For now the BoE - which is helping the economy with its massive stimulus program - is waiting to see who is right: the pessimistic investors who have pushed down the value of the pound by 13 percent since June or the country's consumers who have carried on spending. Gertjan Vlieghe, one of the BoE's interest-rate setters, said he believed Britain was set for a "slow-motion" slowdown. — Reuters



MUTAWA ALKAZI TO LAUNCH 2 NEW GAC CAR MODELS

GAC GM, BOARD MEMBERS VISIT KUWAIT, CHINESE EMBASSY



KUWAIT: GAC Motor's General Manager Yu Jun, Head of International Business Division, Liu Haoyuan, and Manager of Regional and International Sales Division, Mark Chang, Deputy Manager of Regional Sales, Leu Kong, and Sales Manager, Luo Zhongyi, arrived in Kuwait on an official visit. They were welcomed by Mutawa Alkazi's CEO Omar Alkazi.

The delegation visited the main showroom of Mutawa Alkazi in Al-Rai Area and expressed their admiration about the distinctive site of the showroom and its design, car display and the efficient sales team. The delegation also visited Mutawa Alkazi's showroom located at A-Tilal Complex in the Shuwaikh area where Omar Alkazi briefed them about the showroom size, capacity and the large number of cars on display.

Furthermore, the delegation visited the service center and identified the mechanism of work and the stages of maintenance, starting from welcoming the administrators of the center and the supervisors up to the entry of a car and its registration in detail. They listened to their own-

ers' comments about car status and how they provide customers information about car maintenance.

The general Manager, Yu Jun, and the delegation accompanying him, expressed their admiration about the services being offered at the service center and system of work. He appreciated the staff's efforts in dealing with customers. They expressed satisfaction over the deployment of distinctive appliances at the center including the internet service and visited the hall exclusively designated for women.

GAC's delegation also visited the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, accompanied by the CEO Omar Alkazi, the General Manager of Sales in Mutawa Alkazi, Ahmad Abu Al-Huda, and the Director of Business Development in the Group, Nasser Al-Musallam, where they were received by the Ambassador Wang De, and the officers of the embassy. They discussed the strong relationship that connects Kuwait and China in all fields especially in the fields of economy and commerce which is underscored by the

distinctive relationship with Mutawa Alkazi. The relationship has become even strong-footed due to the representation of the company in Kuwait as it became an example for the ideal and successful partnership.

The delegation presented a model of two new cars, the GS4 and GA8. The new cars will arrive in Kuwait and will be showcased at the Mutawa Alkazi showrooms at the beginning of the new year.

Ambassador Wang De praised the distinctive products of cars and motors provided by GAC Motor Co, which became one of the most popular Chinese trademarks worldwide. As a token of appreciation and as a symbol of the strong relationship with GAC Motor Co, Omar Alkazi, presented plaques to the GAC Company and to the delegation members. Praising the level of cooperation with the company, he said they are partners in success as he looked forward to more progresses and successes in their collaboration. He said that their visit had achieved the desirable objectives and that they had enjoyed their visit to Kuwait.



FED'S HAWKISH TONE BOOSTS DOLLAR

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

KUWAIT: Using a hawkish tone, the FOMC took interest rates up by 25 bps this week and the 'dot plot' projections for 2017 showed three further rate hikes in 2017 up from the two hikes anticipated in September. The FOMC's statement also acknowledged the strengthening economic activity and mentioned that measures of inflation compensation have moved up considerably even if it remains low. The median forecast for US 2017 GDP growth was revised up to 2.1 percent, from 2.0 percent, while the unemployment rate forecast was revised down by a small amount to 4.5 percent, from 4.6 percent. Overall, the communiqué was perceived as bullish as the market reaction was a one way move taking the dollar index to new elevated levels.

In a matter of one month since the Trump's election, we have witnessed US 10 year rates moving explosively from 1.7 percent to over 2.60 percent the highest level since mid-2014, and the Dollar index settling above the 103.00 level. With such a move, the dollar has become the highest yielding currencies in the major 10, just after the Australian and the New Zealand dollar. With such ramifications, it becomes clear that global portfolios are likely to flock into the US in search of higher yields in a global negative rates environment. The worry that might arise from such an environment is the fact that after almost eight years of very easy monetary policy, the world has amassed a great amount of debt denominated in cheap Dollar funding. Now that rates are moving higher, a sense of panic is happening as non-US borrowers demanding record amounts of USD-denominated debt at the same time causing an overshoot in the dollar and a drop in all the other currencies. For now, markets are pricing an exodus from emerging markets and from any economy yielding negative rates.

Now that US yields have reached extreme levels in a very short period of time, markets could push them even higher in order to find the pain threshold in the bond market and the dollar is likely to push higher as yields spread further. It is clear that if this environment persists in the first quarter of 2017, then we might create a major headache for global Central banks.

In summary, the Federal Reserve raised interest rates for the first time this year from 0.50 to 0.75 percent. Other than the fact that

the economy is at full capacity, the decision to raise rates was also backed by higher inflation expectations. If the new administration delivers on its fiscal and infrastructure promises, 2017 could be the year when inflation takes over from deflation fears.

In the news conference following the rate hike decision, Fed Chair Janet Yellen offered an upbeat assessment of the state of the US economy, however, warned that monetary policy will be operating under a "cloud of uncertainty" until there is more clarity about the economic and fiscal policies of incoming President Donald Trump. In addition, all FOMC members recognized that there is considerable uncertainty about how economic policies may change and what effect they may have on the economy.

Back to Europe, the Bank of England left current policy measures on hold although the interesting take away from the statement was the acknowledgement from the MPC that 'the sterling exchange rate had appreciated and this would by itself point to less of an overshoot in inflation relative to the target in the medium term, though month-to-month volatility was to be expected as market participants' view on the UK's future relationship with the EU continues to evolve. The MPC also said that the economy will soften in 2017 as consumer spending weakens and the vote to leave the European Union is likely to affect investment plans. The BOE expects the economy to grow by 0.4 percent this quarter after a 0.5 percent expansion in the three months through September.

In Japan, the resulting widening of US-Japan interest rate differentials has driven the USD/JPY exchange rate sharply higher, thereby raising the prospect of faster potential inflation in Japan due to upward pressure on imported prices. With the rise of global bonds yields following the sudden shift in the US curve, the BoJ can allocate its QE operations on the Japanese government Bond's longer duration, keeping bond yields near the desired levels as part of their yield curve control strategy. This mechanism should in theory keep yields low in Japan and push investors in seeking higher returns abroad, hence increasing the downside pressure on the Yen.

On the currency front, the US dollar continued to climb this week to the highest level in 14 years at 103.56, after the FED's meet-

ing. After starting the week at 101.51, the dollar index closed on Friday at 103.020.

The Euro continued to slip to the lowest level since January 2003 versus the US dollar as the spread between US and German 10-year bond yields widened the most since 1990. The Euro opened on Monday at 1.0545 against the dollar and reached a low of 1.0371. The pair ended the week at 1.0447.

The USD/JPY pair started the week at 115.44 and grasped a fresh high of 118.66 on Thursday, after the spread between Japanese Government Bonds and the US 10-Year treasuries are at their widest since 2011 when Abenomics began. USD/JPY closed on Friday at 117.98. In the commodities space, gold plunged to a 10-month low of 1,122.00 on Wednesday as investors tend to hold less non-yielding assets when interest rates rise. The metal opened the week at 1,159.00 and closed the week at 1,133.93.

Mixed US data

Retail sales in the US barley rose in November, indicating a pause in spending after robust gains in the previous two months. The weakness stemmed mostly from the biggest drop in auto sales in eight months as they account for about 20 percent of all retail spending. However, most retailers reported improved results last month. Sales of home furnishings, groceries and gasoline led the way while restaurants saw strong foot traffic. In summary, retail sales increased by 0.1 percent and were down by 0.5 percent from the previous month.

US industrial production on the other hand marked its third decline in the past four months in November, due to a steep decline in utility output and a dip in manufacturing. The fall was the largest since March, when the index fell 0.9 percent. In details, the index fell 0.4 percent in November, after a 0.1 percent rise in October. Utilities production dropped 4.4 percent in November as warmer-than-normal temperatures reduced demand for heating.

Germany remains resilient

German economic sentiment was unchanged in December from the previous month and missed forecasts for a slight increase. The latest survey indicates a stable economic growth over the next six months.

However, the considerable economic risks arising from the tense situation in the Italian banking sector, as well as the political risks surrounding upcoming elections in Europe may affect future confidence. The economic sentiment remained at 13.8 points in December against a forecast of 14.2.

Europe's PMI survey showed that manufacturing growth in the EU helped offset a softening of growth in the services sector. Despite the rise of political risks and the boost to consumers' real income growth from lower energy prices have now faded away, the continuous drop of the currency helped offset those risks.

In details, the eurozone manufacturing PMI rose to 54.9 for December from 53.7 in November. This was above consensus expectations of 53.9 and the highest reading for 68 months. The manufacturing sector gained support as exports increased strongly with an important boost from a weaker single currency. In the service sector, the Eurozone Services PMI fell to a two-month low of 53.1 from 53.8 in November, while economists predicted a score of 53.8.

Inflation on the rise

UK employment fell for the first time in more than a year in the three months through October, signaling that the labor market may be softening and adding to signs of economic weakness emerging in the aftermath of the "Brexit" vote. Britain's employment level in the August-October period fell by 6,000 individuals or 0.1 percent, while the number of people who are no longer seeking work rose by 76,000, the largest quarterly increase in economic inactivity since mid-2014.

The unemployment rate however remained unchanged at 4.8 percent, the lowest level in more than a decade, defying analysts' expectations for a 0.1 percent increase. In conclusion, a slowing economy could weaken Britain's negotiating hand in the "Brexit" process.

On a different matter, UK inflation expanded to more than a two-year high in November as clothing prices rose the most in 6 years.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30605
The USD/KWD opened at 0.30605 yesterday morning.

GLOBAL EQUITY OUTLOOK 2017

By Hayder Tawfik

Global economic growth is moving slowly but finally it is emerging with most economies. This is quite different from the past few years. Also, it appears that

global economic growth set to improve more than what we have been experiencing in the past few years. However, this improvement should be supported by steady consumer spending, increase in employment and household strength in the United States, commodities producing countries, a rebound in economic activities in the Europe and continued accommodative monetary policies by non-US central banks.

The US economic cycle has been the longest in recent memories. It is going into 2017 with steady growth and falling unemployment. The economic expansion is most likely to continue even in the face of the Federal Reserve raising interest rates. Although the pace of economic growth may not be that strong but there are signs of optimism for the US economy and global equity markets under new president. If global growth does not accelerate then more fiscal stimulus measures will be introduced rather than easing monetary policies.

Some commodities producing economies and emerging markets may see their economies rebalancing followed by structural reforms. Many developed economies are slowly coming out of the disinflationary pressures they have been facing over the past few years. In the United States, hints of wage growth, encouraging employment data and an overall bloom in key inflation gauges have led to growing market sentiment that the US Federal Reserve is on track to raise interest rates further in 2017.

The eurozone and Japan have exhausted their monetary policies and most likely that they will introduce some fiscal measure to bolster their economic growth. I believe that fiscal stimulus should be used to spark inflation along with financial repression to keep real interest rates negative. It seems that they years of austerity measures are over. European Central Bank President Mario Draghi recently appealed for more expansive budgetary policy. Meanwhile, Japanese policymakers

announced a fiscal stimulus package, and the Bank of Japan commenced efforts to engineer a steeper yield curve i.e., increase the differential between longer-term and shorter-term government bond yields.

Uncertainties

Although there are some concerns about low global economic growth, high governments debts and political uncertainties as well as an aging US bull market in stocks and elevated equity valuations relative to history in key sectors, it appears the general consensus of equity market investors is that caution seems warranted. The recent rallies in oil and commodity prices and the improvement in the private sectors access to money and credit have eased some short-term risks but still there are challenges over the longer term.

The recent rallies in global stock markets have stretched equity valuations and it appear to be pricing in strong economic and earnings rebounds, while relaxed central bank policy seems to be reflected in the prices of many global equities. Investors should focus on and analyze very carefully those stocks that are rightly positioned to take advantage of an accelerated global economic growth. Using a bottom up approach might uncover great investment ideas but also applying a top down approach to take advantage of a rebound in inflation that might drive the global financial markets in the years ahead.

In an inflationary environment, equities historically have generally fared better than many other asset classes in particular fixed income bonds. This kind of economic environment should be favorable for banks, financial institutions, commodity related economies and consumer cyclical sectors. As for the US industrials and infrastructure related sectors should benefit from the promises made by the newly elected US president. Industrial companies should be the key beneficiaries of potentially higher growth and expanding infrastructure spending. I believe a potentially stronger US economy offers a positive dynamic for many other economies and markets, allowing for a potential shift in equity market leadership from the United States to other parts of the world.

Obviously, there are lots of uncertainty surrounding the speed of global economic growth and the duration of the current economic cycle and its expansion but I think the trend has changed and at present there are more support for equity investments than there was over the past few years. @Rasameel



NBK LAUNCHES 'NBK TAP & PAY' TO OFFER CONVENIENT BANKING

INNOVATIVE SERVICE WILL SAVE CUSTOMERS' TIME AND EFFORT

KUWAIT: Aiming to upgrade its suite of banking services that meet customers' demands and expectations, NBK launched its new NBK "Tap & Pay" Service that will save customer's time and efforts when making payments on NBK Tap & Pay enabled POS terminals.

Using contactless technology, the innovative service enables customers using NBK Tap & Pay Cards by simply tapping the card on the POS machine without entering the PIN or signing the receipt for payments up to KD 10. As for the payments from KD 10.001 to KD 100, the customer can use NBK Tap & Pay by entering the PIN and signing the receipt. NBK Tap & Pay is truly a way of making every day payments quicker and easier. This brand new service translates NBK's drive to introduce the best-in-class banking products and services that match the highest industry standards and use the latest cutting-edge technology for the ultimate banking experience.

Suresh Bajpai, NBK's General Manager-

Consumer Banking Group, said that NBK Tap & Pay is considered to be the latest in banking cards' technology that provides the highest security and privacy layers, while saving customers' time and effort. He affirmed that NBK aims to always facilitate customers' transactions and provide them with an outstanding banking experience at all times.

Hanadi Khazal, NBK's Assistant General Manager- Consumer Banking Group, invited customers to visit the nearest NBK branch to apply for the new NBK Tap & Pay Cards and enjoy the fastest way to pay. NBK Tap & Pay makes payments easier and quicker for both individual customers and Business Banking customers. It's worth noting that NBK strives to introduce a wide range of banking solutions and products that satisfy customers' needs and match their lifestyle. As a result, NBK's ongoing offerings play an integral role in attaining its leadership position in the banking industry locally and abroad.

By launching the new NBK Tap & Pay, a new service has been added to the wide range of banking products that meet the highest security standards, including the NBK Mobile Banking and NBK Online Banking that allow customers to bank anywhere at any time, in addition to the SMS Banking through which customers are notified of any changes on their account or card balance, the WhatsApp service that was launched recently, the ATMs and CDMs and more. Functionalities are also added on an ongoing basis on existing products and services to further enhance customer experience in dealing with NBK reaffirming NBK's commitment to their customers. NBK recently also launched its ITM (Interactive Teller Machine) which enables customers through a video to do banking transactions, remotely without visiting the branch. This service is available in the Avenues Mall from 10 am to 10 pm 7 days a week.

BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. Nazzal Zaid Khalaf Almutairi
2. Mousa Ahmad Alyahya
3. Fahad Naeem Jawad Alattabi
4. Umer Farouk Sundal Mohd
5. Muneera Abdullatif Muhammed

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where

customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Burgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. "People come first" is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

The bank was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2008, making it the first bank in the GCC, and the only bank in Kuwait to receive such accreditation for the third consecutive year. The Bank also has to its credit the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twelve consecutive years.

DUBAI PARKS AND RESORTS CELEBRATES INAUGURATION WITH GALA SPECTACULAR

DUBAI: At a press conference yesterday in front of the world's media, Dubai Parks and Resorts marked the opening of its third theme park, MOTIONGATE Dubai and confirmed the destination's inauguration ceremony will take place tomorrow in the presence of UAE dignitaries.

Over 1,500 of the world's media, UAE dignitaries and celebrities will attend the formal inauguration of Dubai Parks and Resorts, the region's leading theme park destination. 200 children have also been invited to attend the event in cooperation with the Awqaf and Minor affairs foundation and the Make A Wish Foundation.

The event, which is being held in a specially built arena over the river at Riverland Dubai, will showcase each of its three theme parks in a very special show involving the dancers and actors from Dubai Parks and Resorts' live entertainment team. The show will also feature a live performance of the Dubai Parks and Resorts official theme song entitled "All the Wonders of the Universe" by the composer himself, academy award winner Alan Menken who has written the scores for many of the world's most famous animated movies.

The finale will light up the sky above the 30.6 million square feet destination with a pyrotechnic spectacular. The show will be filmed live by the official media partner, Dubai Media Incorporated (DMI) and screened for guests in the parks and for residents and visitors at locations across Dubai.

The festivity marks the official inauguration of all three theme parks: MOTIONGATE Dubai, the first ever collaboration between three of Hollywood's most legendary studios, Columbia Pictures, DreamWorks and Lionsgate; LEGOLAND Dubai, the first LEGOLAND theme park in the Middle East; and Bollywood Parks Dubai, a first-of-its-kind theme park that showcases rides and attraction based on some of Hollywood's biggest blockbusters. It will also host the LEGOLAND Water Park, the region's first water park catering to families with children aged 2-12. The entire destination is connected by Riverland Dubai - a uniquely themed retail and dining destination, and guests will be able to stay at the Lapita Hotel, a Polynesian themed family hotel part of the Marriott Autograph Collection. Raed Kajoor Al-Nuaimi, CEO of DXB



Entertainments PJSC, the owner of Dubai Parks and Resorts said: "After three years, it is a very proud moment for us to present the region's largest integrated theme park destination and we look forward to welcoming our guests to this very special inauguration event."

"Our aim was to create a legacy for entertainment in the region, for the communities and charities we will support and for the residents and tourists who will make great memories and visit us again and again. We are immensely proud of the destination we have created for the UAE and its visitors and would like to take this opportunity to thank our colleagues and partners for everything they have done to bring Dubai Parks and Resorts to life."

Dubai Parks and Resorts, owned by DXB Entertainments PJSC, is the Middle East's largest multi-themed leisure and entertainment destination comprising three separate theme parks: MOTIONGATE Dubai the region's largest Hollywood-inspired theme park featuring immersive rides and attractions based on Hollywood hits; LEGOLAND Dubai, a unique, interactive theme park for families which will bring the well-known LEGO brick to life in a play-

ful learning environment and Bollywood Parks Dubai, a first-of-its-kind theme park that will showcase rides and attraction based on some of Hollywood's biggest blockbusters. It will also host the LEGOLAND Water Park, the region's first water park catering to families with children aged 2-12. Expected to open in late 2019, Six Flags Dubai will be destinations fourth theme park and the regions first Six Flags themed park.

The entire destination is connected by Riverland Dubai - a uniquely themed retail and dining destination at the heart of Dubai Parks and Resorts, and guests can stay at the Lapita Hotel, a Polynesian themed family hotel part of the Marriott Autograph Collection.

Located on Sheikh Zayed Road opposite the Palm Jebel Ali in Dubai equidistant to Dubai and Abu Dhabi International Airports the destination offers over 100 rides and attractions.

AL-TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-NAJMA ACCOUNT DRAW

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al-Najma Account daily draw yesterday. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are:

- Saleha Fayaz Ahmed — KD 7000,
- Faiza Khalid Bashir Ahmed — KD 7000,
- Noorjhan Mohammed Ismael — KD 7000,
- Abdelhadi Abdurassooli Al Bo Abbas — KD 7000,
- Mohammad Hasan Ibrahim — KD 7000.

Al-Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever with the revamped Al-Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

The new prizes scheme for Al-Najma account:
Daily draw to win KD 7000

Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000

- 1ST quarter — KD 100 000
- 2ND quarter — KD 150 000,
- 3RD quarter — KD 200 000,
- 4TH quarter — KD 250 000

With Al Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes:

- Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to win
- Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw.
- Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.

Additional features:

- ATM card
- Issue a credit card against your account
- Obtain all CCBK banking services

You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.

KIB WINS 'BEST SHARIA-COMPLIANT BANK IN MENA 2016' AWARD

KUWAIT: In recognition of its commitment to offer the best Sharia-compliant banking solutions, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) was recently bestowed with the Best Sharia-compliant Bank in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) 2016 Award from CFI.co, the leading print journal and online resource specializing in the finance and banking sectors.

KIB received the award for the second consecutive year as a result of its leading role in the Islamic banking industry, and its commitment to offering both corporate and individual clients a wealth of products and services, in full compliance with the principles of Islamic Sharia.

Speaking about this achievement, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Chairman of KIB, said: "This award comes as a testament to KIB's commitment to offering its clients a diverse and comprehensive range of innovative banking solutions, designed to suit the individual needs and aspirations of customers who prefer to conduct their banking under a fully Sharia compliant model. We are immensely proud to have received this honor from an independ-



Sheikh Mohammad Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah

ent international assessment body, which is considered to be one of the most prominent London-based organizations specializing in the finance and banking sectors."

Al-Jarrah further added: "Being named Best Sharia-Compliant Bank in the MENA region for 2016 is a continuation of KIB's ongoing streak of successes and achievements. This accolade serves to further enrich our existing record of excellence and leadership within the Islamic banking sector, on both a local and a regional level."

KIB's Chairman also applauded the

efforts of the Bank's Fatwa & Sharia Supervisory Board, who plays a key role in overseeing all internal and external operations, in addition to monitoring all of the Bank's products and services, in order to ensure complete compatibility with Islamic Sharia regulations. He further reiterated KIB's strong belief that the success of any organization is dependent on the efforts and dedication of its employees; noting that the Bank's team features highly qualified and experienced banking professionals across all levels of the organization, who all work together to help KIB attain its strategic objectives and long-term goals.

KIB has garnered numerous local and international prestigious awards over the past few years. One of the biggest accolades came from World Finance, with KIB being named "Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait" consecutively in 2014, 2015 and 2016, as well as "Best Islamic Bank in the GCC" in 2016 as part of the annual GCC Investment & Development Awards. Most recently, KIB also won the "Best Banking Vision" Award for the year 2016 by CPI Financial in the Islamic Business and Finance Awards category.



ZAIN WINS 'BEST BRAND' TITLE

TELECOM REVIEW EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2016

DUBAI/KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, is proud to announce that its brand has been identified as the 'Best Brand' for telecom in the Middle East for 2016 at the gala ceremony of the Telecom Review Summit Excellence Awards held in Dubai on 13 December, 2016.

Telecom Review is a leading industry publication and the award recognizes the outstanding performance of Zain's brand across all its markets, which has come to represent the highest standard of customer service at all its touch points. Winners were chosen based on recognized and demonstrated capabilities in their specific sector by an independent panel of 15 experienced industry veterans. Zain has been a recipient of the 'Best Brand' accolade at other regional events in the past, confirming the brand's success in inspiring hope and delivering happiness since its inception in 2007.

The success at the Telecom Review Awards has been driven by the tangible developments occurring within the company, reflected by its brand, which is representative of the continual investment in network upgrades that the operator is making. Zain's technology innovation is

also positively impacting customer experience, reinforcing the company's brand values and making it one of the most respected and recognized corporate brands in the Middle East.

Commenting on the award of the latest accolade, Zain Group CEO Scott Gegenheimer said, "We are proud to be recognized once again as a leading brand in the region and continue to adapt ourselves in ensuring the brand brings out the best in us and makes us strive to offer the best customer experience possible, as our loyal customers deserve no less."

Zain is an ardent supporter of continual innovation and forging strong partnerships, and its relationship with other well-regarded brands such as Uber and Booking.com, for example, have led to the reinforcement of the Zain brand itself. Zain also made strategic investments in smart city consulting firm, neXgen and mobility solutions developer and consultancy firm FOO to fast-track its digital lifestyle offerings.

The company's marketing campaigns across the region on various media channels have captured the hearts and minds of millions of people across the Arab World and afar. Most recently, Zain's



Group CEO Scott Gegenheimer receives Best Brand award.

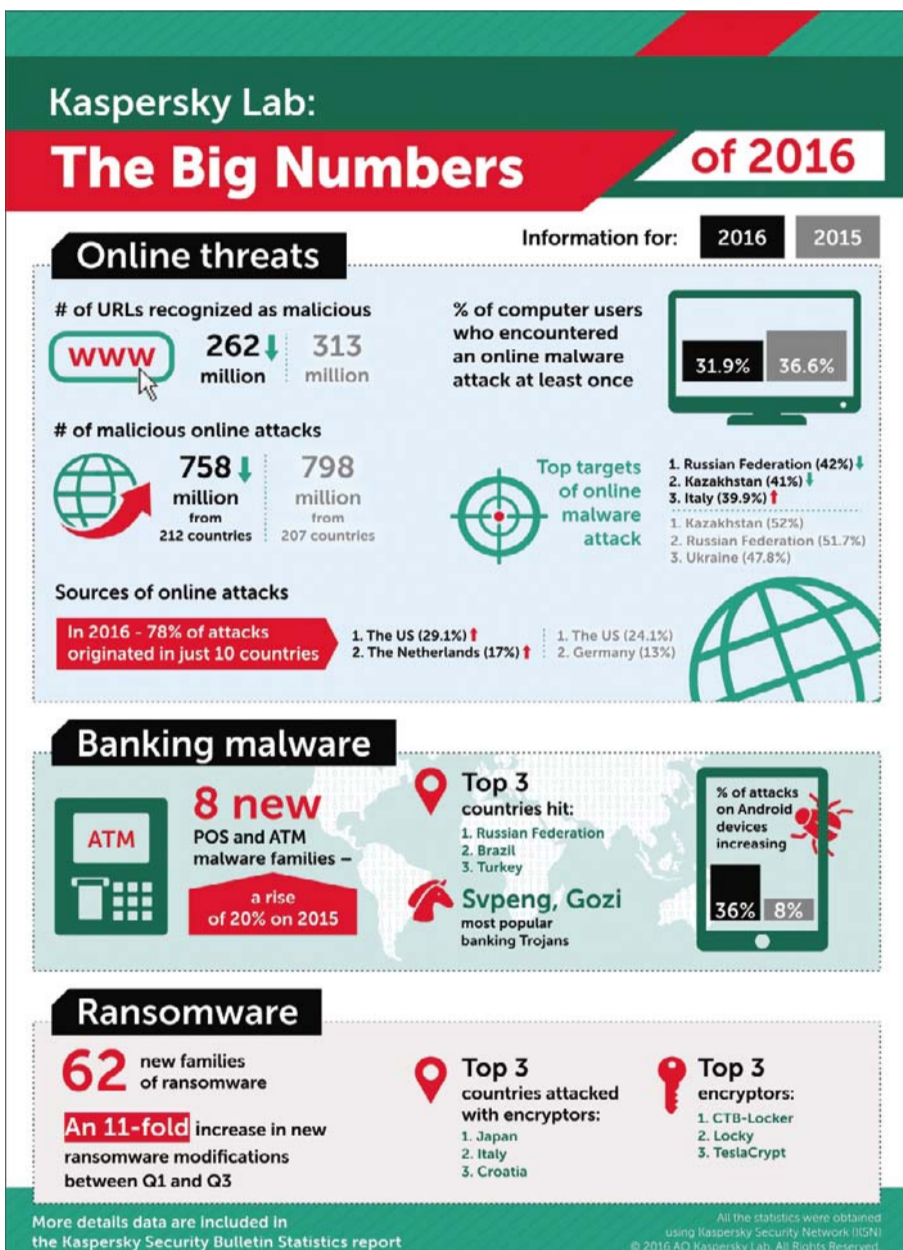
Ramadan 2016 TVC had a remarkable 10 million views on YouTube, in a space of only 30 days, with the company's Ramadan EID 2016 TVC also attaining 18 million views to date, both relevant and indicative factors of the brand power of Zain! Today, Zain Group and its local operations now boast more than 8 million

fans on Facebook, more than 4.5 million followers on Twitter, and nearly one million on Instagram. Over the past 4 years, Zain Group's and operations' numerous YouTube channels across the region have had in excess of 100 million views.

Sustainability, transparency and thought-leadership are at the very core

of Zain's business and this is reflected in every aspect of the company's day-to-day operational activities. Zain's annual Sustainability Report highlights the company's continued hold of its regional leadership position in pursuing its sustainability agenda and supporting its communities through outreach activities such as capacity-building, education, socio-economic development, and environmental stewardship. In addition, with a focus on supporting the entrepreneurial start-up ecosystem, Zain partnered with the MIT Pan Arab Start Up Competition for the past two years and most recently supported the global MIT Innovate for Refugees competition. ENDS

Zain is a leading telecommunications operator across the Middle East and Africa, providing mobile voice and data services to over 45.8 million active customers as of 30 September, 2016. With a commercial presence in 8 countries, Zain operates in: Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and South Sudan. In Lebanon, the Group manages 'touch' on behalf of the government. In Morocco, Zain has a 15.5 percent stake in 'INWI', through a joint venture. Zain is listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange (stock ticker: ZAIN).



SERVERS FOR SALE, GLOBAL BOTNETS AND A STRONG FOCUS ON MOBILE

KASPERSKY LAB'S THREAT REVIEW FOR 2016

DUBAI: In 2016, the world's biggest cyberthreats were related to money, information and a desire to disrupt. They included the underground trade of tens of thousands of compromised server credentials, hijacked ATM systems, ransomware and mobile banking malware - as well as targeted cyberespionage attacks and the hacking and dumping of sensitive data. These trends, their impact and the supporting data are covered in the annual Kaspersky Security Bulletin Review and Statistics reports, published today.

In 2016 Kaspersky Lab research also discovered the extent to which companies struggle to quickly spot a security incident: 28.7% said it took them several days to discover such an event, while 19% admitted it took weeks or more. For a small but significant minority of 7.1%, it took months. Among those that struggled most, eventual discovery often came about through an external or internal security audit, or an alert from a third party, such as a client or a customer. Further details on how a delay in detection impacts business recovery costs can be found in the Executive Summary of the review.

Other things we learned in 2016:

1. That the underground economy is bigger and more sophisticated than ever: Just look at xDedic - the shady marketplace for more than 70,000 hacked server credentials that allowed anyone to buy access to a hacked server, for example one located in an EU country's government network, for as little as \$6.
2. That the biggest financial heist did not involve a stock exchange as expected: instead it used SWIFT-enabled transfers to steal \$100 million
3. That critical infrastructure is worryingly vulnerable on many fronts: as revealed at the end of 2015 and into 2016 by the BlackEnergy cyberattack on the Ukrainian energy sector that included disabling the power grid, wiping data and launching a DDoS attack. In 2016 Kaspersky Lab experts investigated industrial control threats and discovered thousands of hosts around the world exposed to the Internet, with 91.1 percent carrying vul-

nerabilities that can be exploited remotely.

4. That a targeted attack can have no pattern: shown by the ProjectSauron APT, an advanced, modular cyberespionage group that customized its tools for each target, reducing their value as Indicators of Compromise (IoCs) for any other victim.

5. That the online release of vast volumes of data can directly influence what people think and believe: as evidenced by the ShadowBrokers and other personal and political data dumps.

6. That a camera or DVD player could become part of a global Internet-of-things cyber-army: as the year ends it is clear that the Mirai-powered botnet attacks are only the beginning.

"The number and range of cyberattacks and their victims seen in 2016 has put the subject of better detection at the top of the business agenda. Detection is now a complex process that requires security intelligence, a deep knowledge of the threat landscape, and the skills to apply that expertise to each individual organization. Our analysis of cyberthreats over the years has revealed both patterns and unique approaches. This accumulated understanding underpins our active defense tools, as we believe protection technologies should be powered by security intelligence. It also sits at the heart of our growing number of partnerships and collaborations. We use the past to prepare for the future, so that we can continue to protect our customers from undetected threats, before they do any harm," said David Emm, Principal Security Researcher, Kaspersky Lab.

An overview of intelligence-based security protection can be found here.

The notable statistics for the year include:

- 36 percent of online banking attacks now target Android devices, up from just 8 percent in 2015.
- 262 million URLs were recognized as malicious by Kaspersky Lab products, and there were 758 million malicious online attacks launched across the world - with one in three (29 percent) originating in the US and 17 percent in the Netherlands.

KUWAITI STUDENTS LEARN CODING TO ENHANCE CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

HOUR OF CODE SESSIONS DELIVERED ACROSS SELECT SCHOOLS IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Microsoft Corp and Code.org unveiled the Minecraft Hour of Code Designer, a coding tutorial for students and educators created for Hour of Code, an annual, global campaign held during Computer Science Education Week. The new web-based tutorial - available for free at <http://code.org/minecraft> - enables beginner coders to create and share their own simple "Minecraft" game, and is designed to empower anyone to begin learning the problem-solving and critical thinking skills required in today's tech-fueled world.

The Microsoft Kuwait team organized Hour of Code sessions in two schools; Abraja Khaitan Secondary School for Girls and Microsoft Showcase School; Ibn Al Ameer Secondary School, where Microsoft's Expert Educator Ahmad Ashour delivered training to over 50 students on the important elements of coding. Additionally, a community led event driven by Barcamp also took place in Al-Shaheed Park, attended by over 30 participants from different schools across Kuwait. Students of all ages participated in the event, learning Hour of Code techniques and also received certificates upon completion of the training.

Created by "Minecraft" game designers at Mojang and Microsoft, in partnership with Code.org, the fun and easy-to-learn one-hour experience builds on the success of last year's record-breaking "Minecraft" tutorial, which reached more than 30 million students worldwide. With the goal of inspiring millions more to try coding for the first time - and to keep going on their journey of learning computer science - as of the launch, the tutorial is available in 10 languages, including Spanish. It is scheduled to be available in 50 languages from Dec. 5 onwards.

With the immense popularity of "Minecraft" around the world, Microsoft and Code.org believe the tutorial has the potential to reach people of all ages and likeness. Women and girls already compose nearly half of the game's global fan base. The tutorial also underscores Microsoft's commitment to ensuring all young people have the opportunity to learn computer science, an economic and social imperative in this era of digital transformation, and Microsoft aims to reach students most likely to be among those without access, particularly girls and minorities.

"We are partnering with Code.org again this year to make computer science more accessible to millions of youth around the world with 'Minecraft' and Hour of Code," said Satya Nadella, CEO, Microsoft. "I am inspired by the 'Minecraft' generation who view themselves not as players



of a game, but as creators of the new worlds they dream up. This is the generation that will imagine, build and create our future, and together we can equip them with the computational thinking and problem-solving skills to seize the opportunities ahead."

Designed for ages 6 and up, the Minecraft Hour of Code Designer teaches students to create their own "Minecraft" experience where they can program the rules. They can make chickens that drop gold, or zombies that run away instead of attacking. Along the way, students use Code.org's familiar drag-and-drop coding interface to learn computer science concepts such as object-oriented programming, event handlers and repeat loops. Players face a series of 12 challenges, culminating in creating their own simple game, which they can share with friends.

"Code.org was founded with the vision that every student in every school should have the opportunity to learn computer science - not only because it's foundational for any career, but because students love it," said Hadi Partovi, co-founder and CEO, Code.org. "Minecraft" is a special game that appeals to a diverse global community. We're delighted to have the chance to teach students coding with the fun familiarity of "Minecraft", to engage students of all backgrounds and skill levels."

In support of Code.org and the global Hour of Code campaign, Microsoft will also lead thousands of youth coding events in more than 60 countries. During Computer Science Education Week, this includes hundreds of free workshops hosted by Microsoft Stores across the globe. Students can reserve a spot in a store work-

shop by visiting microsoft.com/youthspark programs and also visit their local Microsoft Store to learn more.

In addition to the latest tutorial and coding events, Microsoft has also been receiving rave reviews from educators on the newly launched "Minecraft: Education Edition" title, a fully featured title that brings the magic of "Minecraft" to the classroom for more immersive, long-term lesson plans.

Code.org is a 501c3 public non-profit dedicated to expanding participation in computer science and increasing participation by women and underrepresented students of color. Its vision is that every student in every school should have the opportunity to learn computer programming. Code.org is the organizer of the annual Hour of Code campaign, which has engaged 10 percent of all K-12 students in the world, and the leading provider of curriculum for K-12 computer science in all of the largest school districts in the United States. Code.org is supported by philanthropic donations from corporations, foundations, and generous individuals, including Microsoft, Facebook, the Infosys Foundation, Google, Omidyar Network, Ballmer Family Giving, and others.

Microsoft (Nasdaq "MSFT" @microsoft) is the leading platform and productivity company for the mobile-first, cloud-first world, and its mission is to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more. Microsoft Gulf opened its Dubai-based headquarters in 1991. Microsoft Gulf today oversees Microsoft activities in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the UAE and Yemen.

Cisco Global Cloud Index

ME AND AFRICA CLOUD DATA CENTER TRAFFIC TO GROW 440% BY 2020

DUBAI: The recently released sixth annual Cisco Global Cloud Index (2015-2020) reveals that global cloud traffic is expected to rise 3.7-fold, up from 3.9 zettabytes (ZB) per year in 2015 to 14.1 ZB per year by 2020. In Middle East and Africa, data center traffic will reach 451 exabytes per year by 2020, up from 105 exabytes per year in 2015. This rapid growth of cloud traffic is attributed to increased migration to cloud architectures and their ability to scale quickly and efficiently support more workloads than traditional data centers.



With greater data center virtualization, cloud operators are also able to achieve greater operational efficiencies while flexibly delivering a growing variety of services to businesses and consumers with optimal performance. To better understand data center growth, new analysis on application workloads was developed for this year's report. The following business and consumer projections were revealed:

- Business workloads dominate data center applications and are growing:

- Business workloads will grow by 2.4 fold from 2015 to 2020 but their overall share of data center workloads will decrease from 79 to 72 percent.
- Consumer workloads, while smaller in number, are growing faster: During the same time, consumer workloads will grow faster by 3.5 fold.
- By 2020, consumer workloads will account for 28 percent (134.3 million) of total data center workloads, compared to 21 percent (38.6 million) in 2015.
- By 2020, video streaming workloads will account for 34 percent of total consumer workloads, compared to 29 percent in 2015.
- By 2020, social networking workloads will account for 24 percent of total consumer workloads, compared to 20 percent in 2015.
- ToT/analytcs/database workloads are growing the most in terms of share of business workloads with collaboration and compute workloads largely maintaining their share.
- Video and social networking will lead the increase in consumer workloads, each respectively grows their percentage significantly.
- By 2020: video streaming workloads will account for 34 percent of total consumer work-

loads, compared to 29 percent in 2015; social networking workloads will account for 24 percent of total consumer workloads, compared to 20 percent in 2015; search workloads will account for 15 percent of total consumer workloads, compared to 17 percent in 2015.

"Over the past year, we've seen a variety of businesses and organizations develop plans for cloud migration or adoption.

The move to the cloud is imminent as cloud computing has advanced from an emerging technology to an essential scalable and flexible networking solution," said Mike Weston, Vice President, Middle East, Cisco. "With multiple trends influencing the growth of data center and cloud computing such as increasing digitization, the widespread adoption of multiple devices and connections and the growth of mobility, the importance of cloud readiness cannot be overemphasized."

"Although our region has made significant strides to reach a capable level of supporting basic and intermediate cloud services, the focus now turns to continuing to improve network capabilities to support the advanced cloud applications that organizations and end users expect and rely upon," added Weston.

IN BENIN, 'SMART-VALLEYS' BRING RICE BOUNTY

OUINHI, Benin: Daniel Aboko proudly shows off the 11 hectares of paddy fields he shares with other farmers - a small spread that produces a bounty of food thanks to smart irrigation and a hardy strain of rice. In just four years, small farmers in Ouinhi, southeastern Benin, have seen their rice harvest double from three to six tonnes of rice per hectare. They produce so much, in fact, that they have created an unusual problem for West Africa: a local glut. "People come here to ask us questions and they invite me to their fields to train them," beamed Aboko, after parking his motorbike. "It's quite common in Ouinhi," he said.

Some 500 rice growers work in 20 paddy fields in the town of 40,000 people in the hilly, rural department of Zou. They accepted an invitation from the Africa Rice Centre, or AfricaRice - a not-for-profit research and training center - to change their irrigation system, and it's worked wonders. "In 2013, there was a drought but the producers on the pilot sites had rice, while the others didn't," said Sander Zwart, a researcher at AfricaRice.

Specialists in rice breeding and irrigation, AfricaRice has devised a system called Smart-Valleys, in which humid

inland valleys - natural catchment areas for rainfall - are scouted out for rice-growing potential. The project's team then work with local farmers, explaining the benefits of an irrigation system that is cheap and sustainable - provided it is built in the right areas, and used at the right times. But for the change to happen, it needs the farmers' extensive knowledge of the terrain and characteristics of the soil.

'The plant gives back'

The work has entailed moving some paddy fields into moist valleys, which are flooded at key times, and tossing out concrete aqueducts, replaced them with earthen embankments forming rows of ditches. "Rice needs water, but not all the time," explained Aboko, who is president of the Ouinhi cooperative. "With this system, when the time comes to give water, we do so - if we shouldn't, we drain it away. "What you give to the plant, it will give that back to you!"

The aim of the project - also being trialed in neighboring Togo - is not only to fight against drought but also to better use rainwater, which is often the only source of local irrigation for paddy fields. "Before, people would choose some-



OUINHI, Benin: Cultivator Janvier R stands in a rice field in a "Smart-Valleys" benefiting from a new irrigation system on Nov 21, 2016. — AFP

where and cultivate without thought," said Zwart. "And when there was no water, they couldn't do anything." Local farmers are involved at every step. "We clear the vegetation with them and they are the ones who design the layout according to the lanes of running water, the slope of the terrain and the size of plots," said Zwart.

No matter how little it rains, the new system allows farmers to produce crops.

But another part of the success story is due to the rice strain - a hybrid of African and Asian cultivars called Nerica, which is shorthand for New Rice for Africa. It brings together genes from high-yield Asian strains and an ancient African strain that is low-yield but resistant to drought and less thirsty than its Asian cousin. The strain was created by AfricaRice, which gave producers their first seeds. Growers have since then

bought more from their own profits.

Sales problems

Guaranteeing a consistent harvest does not mean the farmers' troubles are completely solved. "The growers don't always manage to sell their produce because they have multiplied their yield in a short space of time," said Felix Gbaguidi, a director at the ministry of agriculture. "They hadn't always anticipated that aspect. But some organizations are being set up to look after processing the rice, and marketing."

Even so, Aboko wants to increase his yearly harvest from one to three. And there is room for Benin to increase its production. Back in 2009 the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) envisaged Benin becoming self-sufficient in rice by 2011. Yet last year, France's agriculture ministry said the west African country was still bringing in 50,000 tonnes of rice from abroad. With surplus yields it is perhaps marketing and sales development that Benin needs to take its rice industry to the next level. One hurdle is consumer resistance, for many people prefer the aromatic imported rice from Asia to the hardy, nutty local grain. — AFP

CONGOLESE COCOA WAITS FOR PEACE TO PURSUE SWEET FUTURE

MBAU, DR Congo: Antoine Kakule Kihumuledi longs for a car to transport his cocoa crop and, like fellow residents in the Beni region in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, he wants peace so he can pursue his dreams. Kakule, 51, is a pioneer in cultivating cocoa in this area of Nord Kivu province, which has been ravaged by war and violence for two decades. He began planting in the middle of the Second Congo War (1998-2003) and had his first harvest sometime around 2007.

With the help of a sickle mounted at the end of a long shaft, the father of six children cuts the yellow and orange pods from the cocoa trees which grow on his plantation in Mbau, some 25 kilometres (15 miles) to the north of the town of Beni. But for the past two years the region has

been afflicted with waves of massacres that have killed 700 civilians, mostly hacked to death.

Congolese officials have blamed the attacks on the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a group of rebels dominated by puritanical Ugandan Muslims, but several expert reports have suggested that other groups, including elements within the Congolese army, took part in some killings. The insecurity in the region is hindering the potential for cocoa cultivation to open a way for "an agricultural middle class to emerge," said Jacques Matumo, administrator for ESCO Kivu, a local cocoa company. "We lost a lot of growers" in the massacres, he said. Some who survived "abandoned their fields" and their crops rotted, if they weren't stolen first, he added.



MBAU, Uganda: This photo taken on Nov 15, 2016 at his farm shows Antoine Kakule Kihumuledi (right), a cocoa farmer, opening cocoa pods to collect cocoa beans. — AFP



This photo taken on Nov 15, 2016 shows a worker sorting cocoa beans at the ESCO Kivu cocoa processing plant in Beni.

Coffee Substitute

Kakule says he feels safe as the Congolese army is stationed nearby, but admits he doesn't dare venture further than their outpost. In a country where the UN estimates nearly nine out of 10 people are living on less than \$1.25 per day, Kakule considers himself fortunate. He feeds his family with cassava and vegetables grown on his farm, and the cocoa is a cash crop. After the cocoa pods are cut open, the pulp is left to ferment, during which it liquefies and drains away to expose the beans that are then dried under the sun. The dried beans are sold and eventually exported.

"The money allows me to school my children, pay for their medical care and undertake projects, such as building a new house," Kakule said. He is particularly proud of his daughter, who has just received her teaching degree. Like much of the other natural resources and crops in DR Congo, one of the least developed nations on the planet, cocoa is not processed inside the country.

In 2015, Kakule sold 1,200 kilos of cocoa beans at a price above \$2.00 per kilo. But world cocoa prices have fallen this year, and farmers are now selling their beans for between \$1.60 and \$2.00 per kilo depending on the quality. That Kakule can today set his sights on buying a car to transport his crop is something of a dream come true, and due to a chance encounter with the ESCO Kivu company. In 1998 the firm, which had long been present in Beni, decided to experiment with cocoa cultivation.

The original idea was to find a replacement to two crops which had traditionally been grown in the region for export: quinine bark and coffee. Demand for the bark used to make the antimalarial drug quinine was dropping while coffee output was hit by a fungus outbreak. The experiment was a success: the soil in the Beni region was suitable for cocoa trees and the dry season wasn't too long.

Without any local demand for cocoa beans, the company "created the market" by providing farmers with a guarantee their crop would be purchased, said Matumo. ESCO does not farm itself. Instead it provides independent farmers with technical support, including the help of agronomists, and then buys their cocoa beans to sell to Europe and the United States.

Economic Revival

ESCO employs around 200 people and works in partnership with some 29,000 growers. One executive at its factory, who asked not to be named, said he made around \$700 a month. Its product is certified UTZ, a label guaranteeing a mode of production that is sustainable and mindful of the well-being of the local population and the preservation of the natural environment. Today ESCO has a handful of small competitors following in its footsteps.

For Cleophas Paluku Kahongya, president of the Business Federation of Congo (FEC) in Beni, "cocoa has contributed greatly to the revival of the local economy." But another major problem is tax evasion. In 2015, about 9,000 tonnes out of an estimated total of 20,000 tonnes were exported secretly to Uganda to avoid Congolese taxes, Paluku said. — AFP



KHARTOUM: World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Sudan Naeema Al-Gasseer gives an interview on Dec 5, 2016. — AFP

CASH CRUNCH CLOSING WHO CLINICS IN SUDAN WAR ZONES

KHARTOUM: Dozens of health facilities supported by the World Health Organization in strife-torn areas of Sudan risk closure due to a lack of funds, exposing one million people to likely epidemics. Eleven clinics have already been shut in Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan where years of fighting between government troops and black African rebels has forced tens of thousands of people to flee their homes.

As an acute cash crunch worsens and with the world's eyes focused on other conflicts such as Syria, another 49 facilities in these regions are also at risk, the WHO head in Sudan, Naeema al-Gasseer, told AFP. "We don't have enough funds to continue supporting clinics in remote areas that provide people with health services," Gasseer said. "About 11 clinics have already been closed and another 49 are facing closure. "We are talking about a million people who can be affected."

The closures could impact immunization services, while some 323,000 women of child-bearing age and children under five will lack access to health care, she said. "A heightened risk of epidemics is likely... with people having to travel long distances to access available health care services," Gasseer said. WHO, a United Nations agency, needs about \$7 million to operate these clinics over the next year, but is having trouble sourcing the funds.

More than half of these facilities are in Darfur, a vast region the size of France where heavy fighting erupted in 2003. Violence broke out when ethnic minority

rebels rose up against President Omar al-Bashir, accusing his Arab-dominated government of marginalizing the region. Similar fighting has also plagued Blue Nile and South Kordofan, with tens of thousands of people killed or displaced in these three areas in more than a decade.

'Forgotten emergency'

Funding for Sudan's healthcare sector has fallen in the past two or three years. The cash crunch faced by WHO and other NGOs is so severe that many clinics have no money even to buy medicines or to pay staff wages. "Sudan is like a forgotten emergency," said Adil al-Mahi from Save the Children Sweden, which operates health facilities for children in the conflict zones. "We don't have funds... to maintain the equipment or for food for malnourished children."

Save the Children Sweden is phasing out health and nutrition services in 20 centers in South Kordofan, affecting about 200,000 people who it has supported. UN officials insist Sudan still remains a priority for global donors. The United Nations had launched a global appeal to raise \$952 million to fund humanitarian needs in Sudan in 2016. About 55 percent of that has been raised, which UN officials say is significant considering that donors had to meet other massive aid needs in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Afghanistan. "International donors have stayed the course over the last five years," said Samantha Newport, spokeswoman for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or OCHA. — AFP

FARMING WITHOUT SOIL IN LAND WITHOUT WATER

CAIRO: Growing lettuce in the desert is not most people's idea of how to make a success of farming, but Amr Bassiouny believes he is on to something. The 30-year-old chief executive of Egyptian Hydrofarms says he is growing salad greens at his farm on the outskirts of Cairo using 90 percent less water than traditional methods, and at the same time obtaining better yields. "This is important in Egypt because we have scarce water resources, so you're able to grow large quantities with much less use of resources," he told Reuters Television.

Hydroponics is farming in water instead of soil. Bassiouny places his plants in pipes through which water and nutrients are pumped. Egypt's population of more than 90 million is growing, and agricultural land is shrinking due to illegal construction on the fertile banks of the Nile and its delta, the country's breadbasket. Unlicensed construction picked up pace after the 2011 uprising, with the government estimating that 90,000 acres (36,400 hectares) of farmland were lost in the first three years alone.

"We will be forced to move our farming to the desert, and when we move to the desert, we will either use up all the available water, so in 40 or 50 years we won't have any more water and we will

not be able to farm. "Or, we can start looking for ways of growing larger quantities by using the least amount of our resources as possible," Bassiouny said. Some say hydroponics was used as far back as the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. That theory is unproven, but hydroponics adherents believe the technology has stood the test of time.

Though costlier, hydroponics is attractive for present-day Egypt, much of which is arid and unsuitable for traditional farming. Bassiouny hopes to start exporting to the Middle East as water shortages get worse and traditional farming becomes more difficult. "Even today, the water in desert wells is becoming too salty and unsuitable for farming. So we need to find alternative methods of farming, especially since we won't just be feeding ourselves, but we will also be exporting to other countries."

Chief Commercial Officer Adel Shentenawy, 32, said he had launched a social media campaign to explain the benefits of hydroponics. "Hydroponics isn't a new idea, it's been around since the time of the Pharaohs ... All we did was take this idea and add technology, efficiency and productivity." — Reuters

HENRY HEIMLICH, INVENTOR OF LIFE-SAVING MOVE, DIES AT 96

WASHINGTON: Henry Heimlich, the doctor who gave his name to a famous technique that saved the lives of countless choking victims, has died aged 96, news media reported Saturday. Heimlich, a thoracic surgeon, died at a nursing home in Cincinnati, Ohio following a heart attack. The "Heimlich maneuver", which he invented in 1974 after seeing people choke - and some die - in restaurants, is thought to have saved tens of thousands of lives.

To perform it, a person stands behind the choking victim and applies pressure to the lower diaphragm with his or her hands. Compressing the air in the lungs in this fashion can force the foreign object out of the trachea. The many people whose lives have thus been saved include former

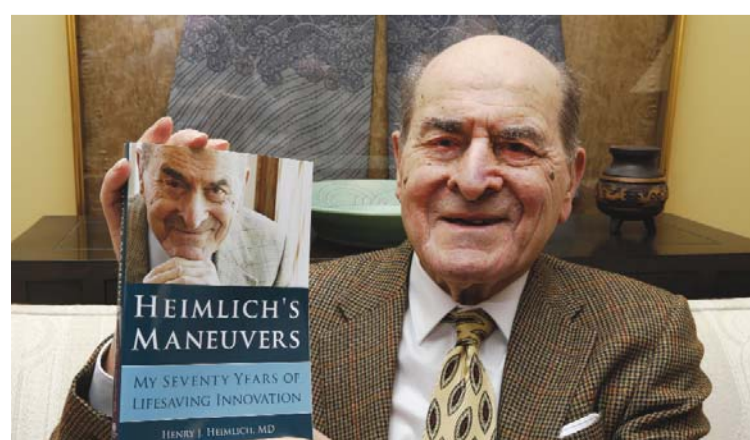
president Ronald Reagan and the actresses Marlene Dietrich and Elizabeth Taylor.

Heimlich himself had employed the maneuver a few months ago to save the life of a fellow retiree at his nursing home, an 87-year-old woman. But he was also the center of controversy more than once. Heimlich had advocated the use of the maneuver for other purposes - to save drowning victims or to help asthma sufferers - that never gained a following. And in his later years, he had advocated exposing AIDS victims to malaria, a treatable disease, to boost their resistance.

Heimlich also was credited with inventing a valve that bears his name and is used to prevent air from filling the chest cavity in trauma cases. Heimlich and Jane

Murray, daughter of dance school magnate Arthur Murray and a proponent of alternative medical

methods, were married from 1951 until her death in 2012. They had four children.



CINCINNATI: In this Feb 5, 2014 file photo, Dr Henry Heimlich holds his memoir prior to being interviewed at his home. — AP



LOS ANGELES: In this Sept 9, 2015 file photo, Planned Parenthood supporters rally for women's access to reproductive healthcare on "National Pink Out Day" at Los Angeles City Hall. — AP

TRUMP COULD CUT FUNDS TO PLANNED PARENTHOOD

WASHINGTON: One of President-elect Donald Trump's first, and defining, acts next year could come on Republican legislation to cut off taxpayer money from Planned Parenthood. Trump sent mixed signals during the campaign about the 100-year-old organization, which provides birth control, abortions and various women's health services. He said "millions of women are helped by Planned Parenthood," but he also endorsed efforts to defund it. Trump once described himself as "very pro-choice". Now he's in the anti-abortion camp.

Still, the Republican has been steadfast in calling for repeal of President Barack Obama's healthcare law, and the GOP-led Congress is eager to comply. One of the first pieces of legislation will be a repeal measure that's paired with cutting off money for Planned Parenthood. While the GOP may delay the impact of scuttling the law for almost four years, denying Planned Parenthood roughly \$400 million in Medicaid funds would take effect immediately. "We've already shown what we believe with respect to funding of Planned Parenthood," House Speaker Paul Ryan, told reporters last month. "Our position has not changed."

Legislation to both repeal the law and cut Planned Parenthood funds for services to low-income women moved through Congress along party lines last year. Obama vetoed it; Trump's win removes any obstacle. Cutting off Planned Parenthood from taxpayer money is a long-sought dream of social conservatives, but it's a loser in the minds of some GOP strategists. Planned Parenthood is loathed by anti-abortion activists who are the backbone of the GOP coalition. Polls, however, show that the group is favorably viewed by a sizable majority of Americans - 59 percent in a Gallup survey last year, including more than one-third of Republicans.

"Defunding Planned Parenthood as one of their first acts in the New Year would be devastating for millions of families and a huge mistake by Republicans," said incoming Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer. Democrats pledge to defend the group, and they point to the issue of birth control and women's health as helping them win Senate races in New Hampshire and Nevada this year. They argue that Trump would be leading off with a political loser. But if he were to have second thoughts and if the Planned Parenthood provision were to be dropped from the health law repeal, then social conservatives probably would erupt.

"They may well be able to succeed, but the women of America are going to know what that means," said Rep Diana DeGette, citing reduced access to services Planned Parenthood clinics provide. "And we're going to call Republicans on the carpet for that." At least one Republican senator, Susan Collins of Maine, may oppose the effort. Collins has defended Planned Parenthood, saying it "provides important family planning, cancer screening, and basic preventive health care services to millions of women across the country." She voted against the health overhaul repeal last year as a result.

Anti-abortion conservatives

Continued opposition from Collins, which appears likely, would put the repeal measure on a knife's edge in the Senate, where Republicans will have a 52-48 majority next year. Senate GOP leaders could afford to lose just one other Republican. Anti-abortion conservatives have long tried to cut Planned Parenthood funds, arguing that reimbursements for non-abortion services such as gynecological exams help subsidize abortions. — AP

JAPAN CULLING 210,000 BIRDS AMID SPREADING AVIAN FLU

TOKYO: Japan has begun slaughtering about 210,000 farm birds in northern Hokkaido to contain another outbreak of a highly contagious strain of avian flu, an official said yesterday. It is the fifth mass cull this winter in Japan with hundreds of officials working to prevent the spread of the virulent H5 strain, which has been detected at several farms across the country. Just weeks earlier, outbreaks led to a cull of 550,000 chickens in the central city of Niigata and 23,000 ducks in the Aomori prefecture south of Hokkaido.

Authorities have also banned the transport of poultry and poultry prod-

ucts in areas close to the affected farms, while sterilizing main roads leading to them.

But progress has been slow this time with just 32,310 chickens at the farm in Shimizu town in northern Hokkaido culled by Saturday evening, local officials said in a statement. "We continue to cull the chickens today but the work is difficult as the air temperature falls to some -20 degree Celsius at night" in addition to fallen snow that is another obstacle, an official told AFP. Before the current outbreaks, Japan's last confirmed case of avian flu at a farm was in Jan 2015. — AFP

UGANDA PARENTS SEEK GENITAL SURGERY FOR 'INTERSEX' BABIES

KAMPALA: After their baby was born in a private clinic near the Ugandan capital, parents Justine Nakato and Stephen Mbaziira Dembe were frustrated their nurses and doctors would not show them their baby or tell them its gender. They kept asking the nurse to tell them what was going on. She said the baby was doing well and they would tell them the sex soon. When the mother was discharged, the hospital staff handed over the baby wrapped up in blankets and warned them not to expose the infant's skin to the cold until they got home. There the couple discovered their baby had both a vagina and a penis.

"At first we were shocked, we went to many physicians to try to find out what we should do," Dembe told the Thomson Reuters Foundation at his home in Nsambya, a suburb of Kampala. "He started passing urine through the penis. Then we decided to give him male names, Timothy Ziwa." Timothy is now 10 months old and his parents are trying to raise funds to carry out genital reshaping surgery, a controversial process that involves procedures intended to make genitalia more like those of either typical males or females.

They are not alone. Local radio stations in Uganda buzz with appeals seeking donors to help fund genital reshaping surgery abroad. One, played regularly on Metro FM, tells a story of a poor child born with ambiguous genitalia and pleads for donations. But an intersex rights group says operations carried out in Uganda are unnecessary and sometimes botched, and advises parents to wait until after children have reached puberty before making any decisions on surgery, whether at home or overseas.

Tamale Ssali, a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist in Kampala who has examined Timothy, said the child's parents would need around \$50,000 to pay for the surgery in Britain as Uganda lacks the facilities safely undertake such complex surgeries. "The baby was born with a condition called ambiguous genitalia. There is a small vagina but no possible uterus and a well-developed penis but no scrotum," Ssali told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

According to an August 2015 report by the

Support Initiative for People with Congenital Disorders (SIPD), a Ugandan intersex rights organization, at least three children are born with an intersex or "difference of sexual development" condition every week in Mulago National Referral Hospital, the biggest hospital in Uganda. Giving birth to an intersex child can come as a shock to parents, and many opt for genital reshaping surgery, according to Ssali.

In its survey of 25 districts in Uganda, the first of its kind, SIPD recorded 48 cases of such surgeries being performed. Julius Kagwa, executive director of SIPD, whose book "From Juliet to Julius" describes changing gender as an adult, said Uganda does not have a laboratory performing chromosomal tests for children to help determine sex, and genital reshaping surgeries are often flawed. "A few surgeries have been attempted to alter ambiguous genitalia in infancy but most of these have been unsuccessful and the intersex children have ended up developing physical characteristics of the opposite sex at puberty," he said.

Biological Milestones

Most intersex children in Uganda are assigned female at birth and raised to identify as women, according to the SIPD report. But for many intersex women, female biological milestones, such as menstruation and breast development do not necessarily follow. Instead, some are faced with changes associated with male puberty, such as beard growth, body hair and voice deepening.

These developments can bring ridicule and stigma, which can lead to suicide attempts and higher rates of school drop-out, according to SIPD. "SIPD advocates for the 'best guess' non-surgical approach where an intersex child should be raised in the best-suited gender, without irreversible surgical intervention, until they can be active participants in the decision," said Kagwa.

Sam Lyomoki, a doctor and member of the Ugandan parliament, said parliament issued guidelines in 2015 to the Ministry of Health advising against surgical intervention for intersex infants. "The guidelines stress counselling for

the parents, and there are counsellors trained to do that. Surgery can only be done when the child is old enough and has shown more features of either sex or the child can decide for him/herself," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Intersex people who have undergone early genital reshaping surgeries have complained of problems like loss of sexual sensation. Betty, who uses a pseudonym to protect her identity, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation from her home in Kampala that she underwent genital reshaping surgery when she was a baby. She went on to have a child, but has no clitoral sensation. "I think what the doctors and my parents agreed to cut out was just an elongated clitoris but not a penis," she said.

Malta was the first country to prohibit involuntary or coerced modifications to sex characteristics. The Council of Europe has also recognized a right for intersex persons to not undergo sex reassignment treatment against their will. Superstition and shame is another factor facing intersex children in Uganda. Intersex children are often hidden as their families consult traditional healers for answers. SIPD reported cases in which mothers conspired with witchdoctors to have their intersex children killed in cleansing rituals because they were believed to be cursed. Mothers also abandoned their intersex children in toilets or forests, and others subjected them to harmful mutilations to reshape their genitalia, according to the report.

Joseph Musisi, a traditional healer based in the Makindye suburb of Kampala, said the mutilation of intersex children is an outdated practice and said his peers practice therapies within the confines of the law. "Not fulfilling family obligations and angering one's ancestors could be a reason one gets an intersex child. This can be rectified if a traditional healer speaks to the ancestral spirits, identifies their demands, and has them fulfilled," he said. Intersex people have also challenged laws in Uganda, including the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, which has a provision that restricts people above 21 years of age from changing their sex details in the National Births Register. — Reuters



KELANIYA, Sri Lanka: A Sri Lankan elephant (*Elephas maximus maximus*) walks through the grounds of the Kelaniya Buddhist Temple yesterday. The Sri Lankan elephant is listed as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as the population has declined by at least 50 percent over the last three generations, with the species threatened by habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation. — AFP

SENATOR CALLS TO RECALL EXPLODING E-CIGARETTES

NEW YORK: US Sen Charles Schumer is increasing the heat on the federal government to consider recalling e-cigarette batteries and devices that explode and catch fire, injuring users. Schumer, a New York Democrat, has called e-cigarettes "ticking time bombs" and said they continue to cause injuries including severe burns. E-cigarette user Katrina Williams, a New York freight manager, said she wanted a safer alternative to smoking regular tobacco cigarettes and thought e-cigarettes were the answer - until one exploded in her pocket in April as she drove home from a beauty salon.

"It was like a firecracker," she said, as it seared third-degree burns in her leg, blasted through her charred pants and stuck in the dashboard. As the use of e-cigarettes has increased over the past year, similar painful accidents have been recorded with greater frequency, with faulty lithium-ion batteries seen as the likely culprits. The same types of batteries are used safely in many consumer electronics, but they've been behind fires in hover boards and smartphones.

Schumer said he wants the US Consumer Product Safety Commission and the US Food and Drug Administration to figure out why so many devices, many from China, are exploding. He said the recent injuries are proof federal action is needed.



CHICAGO: In this April 23, 2014 file photo, e-cigarettes are on display at the Vape store. — AP

Schumer, who planned to hold a press conference yesterday to address the issue, cited a recent AP story saying the FDA identified about 66 recordings in 2015 and early 2016 after recording 92 explosions from 2009 to September 2015.

The AP story said the numbers kept by the FDA may be an undercount. Just one hospital, the UW Medicine Regional Burn Center at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, said it has seen more than 20 patients with e-cigarette burns since it started tracking them informally in Oct 2015. — AP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
مؤيد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال
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MILLENNIUM HOTEL APPOINTS MOHAMMED RAMADAN AS DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Millennium Hotel and Convention Center Kuwait are pleased to announce the newly appointed Director of Finance, Mohammed Ramadan. He was selected based on his very impressive 24- years of existence in the hotel industry; characterized by several laurels of prestige reputations and achievements at different brands of Intercontinental Hotel Groups in Sri Lanka and Middle East.

The Area General Manager of Millennium and Copthorne Hotels Kuwait - Dani Saleh said: "We are proud to welcome Mohammed Ramadan to join our outstanding team members which actually stands behind the organization's ideals, vision and mission. As we continue to strive for the best, we are looking forward to a fruitful association that may bind the foundation and sets the parameters for the team's success. With his full knowledge and expertise when it comes to financial management through developing the finest accounting practices and control procedures, I know we can make things happen."

Furthermore, Millennium Hotel Kuwait, bids farewell to Ahmed Mokhtar, Director of Finance, as he currently moved to a new venture at



Mohammed Ramadan

Millennium Plaza Doha, Qatar with the same title. An exemplary team member that worked extensively for 10 years with succession for Millennium and Copthorne Hotels.

Dani Saleh's words of appreciation: "On behalf of the team and management, we would like to express our sincerest thanks to Ahmed Mokhtar. It is indeed a pleasure to work with a person who's confident, trusting, knowing every day that he'll deliver good quality of work, dedication, loyalty and

great performance. With his history of hard work in the budget, revenue, team management and financial reporting; we can only extend to him our warmth wishes and best of luck with his new unfolding journey."

Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre is one of the finest emerging 5-star quality business hotels in the country that is strategically located on the 4th ring road in the heart of Al-Salmiya area, close to the main shopping malls, dining and entertainment spots around the block. It is also home to business conferences and trade exhibitions with varying capacities.

The hotel is designed for business and leisure travelers, offering 295 rooms and suites equipped with state-of-the-art technology, complimentary high speed Wi-Fi and luxury amenities. Millennium Hotel facilities also include a health club - with modern Techno-gym brand machines, an outdoor swimming pool, and sauna/steam rooms. The hotel's integrated business center offers secretarial services and comprehensive office facilities. With 3 different cuisines and a pool bar, guests are spoiled for choice when it comes to dining in the hotel's world-class restaurants.

Greetings

SUMA ZAATAR ENGAGED TO MARRY SAMER ABU DAGAR



Mr and Mrs Ahmed Mohsen Zaatar are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Suma Zaatar to Samer Abu Dagar. Their beautiful engagement ceremony took place on Friday December 16, 2016 at Movenpick Al-Bidaa.



AMP HOSTS FINANCIAL PLANNING LECTURE

AMP Kuwait conducted a lecture on Financial Planning And Investment on recently at Better Book Store, Salmiya. The lecture was delivered by Salim Desai, CFO at Al-Razzi Holding and mentor to other organizations. He is a

respected and senior finance professional, active in social sphere determined to mentor students in selecting the right career to excel in the professional world. The lecture was finely crafted and aimed to build the impor-

tance and understanding of financial planning in one's life. Investing options in Equity, Real Estate, Mutual Funds, etc were discussed taking into consideration Investment type, investment period and the risk factors. Investments based on Islamic Sharia

were also presented to the audience and queries related to it were answered. The lecture and interactive session were well appreciated by the audience and requested AMP committee for more such lectures.



KUWAIT NATIONAL ENGLISH SCHOOL EARLY YEARS CHILDREN PLANT COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Early Years children recently visited one of our local parks for a day of outdoor play, learning and community activism. With the sponsorship of the

Ministry of Public Affairs of Agriculture and Fish Resources and the management of Rawda Park, the children planted flowers throughout the park. This participation, in

creating a community garden was much appreciated and helped teach the value of civic participation and appreciation for our environment.

Kuwait National English School is dedicated to improving our environment and teaching children the value of citizenship. We are truly grateful for the support provided in

order for the young children to take ownership of their environment. Kuwait public parks are an essential and rich treasure for everyone in our society to enjoy.



STECI KUWAIT PARISH CAROL SERVICE

Christmas Carol service of St Thomas Evangelical Church of India (STECI) Kuwait Parish will be held on Thursday, December 22, 2016 at 7:30 pm at Church and Parish Hall of NECK. Apart from Carol singing by the parish choir, Christmas Pageant of Sunday school children will also be conducted. The Carol service will be presided by the President Vicar Rev Saji Abraham and the Christmas message will be delivered by Rev Bobby Mathew, Vicar of St Thomas Marthoma Church Kuwait.





General classroom photo



THE CENTER OF CONTINUING EDUCATION AT AUK INTRODUCES FIRST EXECUTIVE MINI MBA PROGRAM

The Center of Continuing Education (CCE) at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) announced the graduation of its first group of professionals from the Mini MBA Program. The program was launched in November 2016 in partnership with BEYOND Consulting and Training, (a company based in Lebanon that offers professional development services in the MENA region. The objective of the program was to train professionals on a wide spectrum of competencies that grant them competitive advantages within the Business market.

The Mini-MBA Program is designed to provide professionals with the essential theories, practices and techniques needed to succeed in their professional roles. Over a 5-day course, the program provides an experiential overview of five key areas in business operations; strategic planning, finance functions, marketing strategies; leadership roles and human capital.

Buthaina Al-Khubaizi, Director of CCE, explained that the CCE/BEYOND Executive Mini MBA Program does not only provide a comprehensive understanding of each of

the five key business competencies, but also identifies their interdependencies. Khubaizi explained that the idea of offering a Mini MBA Program was inspired by the success of the Emerging Leaders certificate program, which CCE has been running for three successful years. "Through both programs, CCE tries to offer opportunities for business managers and emerging leaders to reflect and recalibrate, allowing them to disrupt old patterns and discover new approaches to management and leadership," she said.

The CCE Executive Mini MBA Program is designed for professionals who wish to gain the business skills offered in traditional MBA programs without the time and costs incurred by pursuing an MBA degree. The program employs techniques and methodologies that are typically covered in MBA programs, while utilizing David Kolb Experiential Cycle learning model (heavy emphasis on practice, simulations, role-plays, case studies and video-taping exercises drawn from the real work environment, and job realities and situations.)

The Mini MBA Program was conducted by instructors who are experts on the different business domains including, organizational strategic planning, leadership styles and behaviors, accounting and finance, marketing strategies, and human resources management.

Upon their completion of the Mini MBA Program, the participants received professional certificates from CCE at a graduation ceremony held on the center's premises in November. Following the ceremony, Khubaizi announced the launch of CCE's "Emerging Leaders" Certificate Program 2017, which is expected to start mid-February 2017. The "Emerging Leaders" program was developed in early 2014 to offer an introductory model on leadership and cover subjects such as Communication in the Workplace, Building and Leading High Performance Teams, Conflict Resolution, Exceptional Customer Care, Creative Problem Solving, Motivational Leadership, Achieving Successful Results, Human Intelligences and Wellbeing and Carving the Leader Within.



Course Instructor Joseph Maalouf



CANADIANS IN KUWAIT CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING

Canadians in Kuwait (CIK) a social networking organization for Canadian expat community in Kuwait celebrated Thanksgiving for its members and guests with a grand event with pomp and color at Holiday Inn Hotel - Salmiya. Ishtiaq Malik - CIK President welcomed dignitaries, members and guests on behalf of CIK.

He thanked Ambassador of Canada - Martine Moreau, US Ambassador Lawrence Silverman and his wife Victoria. Ambassador of Sri Lanka - KandeepanBala, Catherine Deri, Lieutenant-Colonel and Commanding Officer for joining CIK Thanksgiving.

Ambassador of Canada to Kuwait Martine Moreau addressed the audience by greetings Canadian community in Kuwait with season's greetings and appreciated CIK

for holding this event. Meanwhile, US Ambassador Lawrence Silverman addressed the gathering and wished season's greetings. Catherine Deri, Lieutenant-Colonel and Commanding Officer in her speech also wished season's greetings.

CIK shares Canadian culture with other expats communities in Kuwait, utilizing the talent and efforts of its members. CIK's top agenda is to promote Canada's national traditions and events in Kuwait. The Past one year was very active, CIK had conducted several successful events for its members to enjoy their time in Kuwait. The membership to CIK website is proven to be very informative with weekly news updates and is beneficial to its members.



IISM OBSERVES ENGLISH WEEK



India International School, Mangaf observed English week with a week-long innovative celebrations. India's first Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore and his contribution to the literary arena was the theme.

The activities commenced with an Inter House Quiz Competition on Tagore's life. Special assemblies were organized by all the sections. The three facets of the English language - prose, poetry, and drama - were authentically presented, followed by choral recitation of 'Where the mind is without fear' and a reverberating and meaningful presentation of the Indian National Anthem.

'Give me the Strength', a poem in praise was musically composed and sung. 'Where the Mind is Without Fear' was presented as a ballet and 'Kabuliwala' was enacted in the form of a skit. Children of class I and II performed a song and zealous English games were played in the assembly to enhance the beauty of the language.

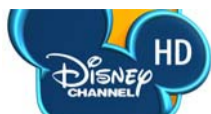
The celebration was concluded with an Inter House Debate Competition by class X on 'Demonetization of 500 and 1000 Indian Rupee Notes'. English week not only provided a platform for the students to showcase their talent but also enhanced their knowledge bank and boosted their self-confidence. The effort taken by the English Department was well appreciated by the School Director, Principal, Senior Vice Principal and the Vice Principals.





- 00:50 River Monsters
- 01:45 Bondi Vet
- 02:40 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
- 03:35 Tanked
- 04:25 Into The Pride
- 05:15 Gator Boys
- 06:02 River Monsters
- 06:49 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
- 07:36 Swamp Brothers
- 08:00 Swamp Brothers
- 08:25 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 09:15 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
- 10:10 Biggest And Baddest
- 11:05 Tanked
- 12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 12:55 Bondi Vet
- 13:50 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
- 14:45 Gator Boys
- 15:40 Biggest And Baddest
- 16:35 Tanked
- 17:30 Into The Pride
- 18:25 River Monsters
- 19:20 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
- 20:15 Tanked
- 21:10 Rogue Nature With Dave Salmoni
- 22:05 Biggest And Baddest
- 23:00 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia
- 23:55 Gator Boys

- 12:15 Street Outlaws
- 13:05 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 13:30 Storage Hunters UK
- 13:55 The Liquidator
- 14:20 Edge Of Alaska
- 15:10 Diamond River Hunters
- 16:00 Deadliest Catch
- 16:50 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
- 17:40 Wheeler Dealers
- 18:30 How Do They Do It?
- 19:20 Diamond River Hunters
- 20:10 Storage Hunters UK
- 20:35 The Liquidator
- 21:00 Gold Rush
- 21:50 Deadliest Catch
- 22:40 Catching Monsters
- 23:30 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder



- 00:10 Hank Zipzer
- 00:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 01:00 Violetta
- 01:45 The Hive
- 01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 02:40 Hank Zipzer
- 03:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 03:30 Violetta
- 04:15 The Hive
- 04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:10 Hank Zipzer
- 05:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 06:00 Violetta
- 06:45 The Hive
- 06:50 Mouk
- 07:00 Dog With A Blog
- 07:25 Dog With A Blog
- 07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 07:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 08:20 Elena Of Avalor
- 08:45 Star Darlings
- 08:50 Duck The Halls: A Very Mickey Christmas
- 09:15 Jessie
- 09:40 Jessie
- 10:05 Jessie
- 10:30 Go Figure
- 12:10 Austin & Ally
- 12:35 Austin & Ally
- 13:00 Liv And Maddie
- 13:25 Liv And Maddie
- 13:50 Shake It Up
- 14:15 Shake It Up
- 14:40 Dog With A Blog
- 15:05 Duck The Halls: A Very Mickey Christmas
- 15:30 Good Luck Charlie
- 15:55 Good Luck Charlie
- 16:20 Girl Meets World
- 16:45 Girl Meets World
- 17:10 Elena Of Avalor
- 17:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 18:00 The Next Step
- 18:25 Descendants Wicked World
- 18:30 Liv And Maddie
- 18:55 Star Darlings
- 19:00 A.N.T. Farm
- 19:25 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 19:30 Austin & Ally
- 19:55 Descendants Wicked World
- 20:00 Backstage
- 20:25 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 20:30 Elena Of Avalor
- 20:55 Best Friends Whenever
- 21:20 Jessie
- 22:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 23:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch



- 00:00 In Search Of Aliens
- 01:00 Monster Quest
- 02:00 In Search Of Aliens
- 03:00 Your Bleeped Up Brain
- 03:50 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
- 04:40 In Search Of Aliens
- 05:30 In Search Of Aliens
- 06:20 America's Book Of Secrets
- 07:10 The Universe
- 08:00 Monster Quest
- 09:00 In Search Of Aliens
- 10:00 Your Bleeped Up Brain
- 11:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
- 12:00 In Search Of Aliens
- 13:00 In Search Of Aliens
- 14:00 Monster Quest
- 15:00 In Search Of Aliens
- 16:00 Your Bleeped Up Brain
- 17:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
- 18:00 In Search Of Aliens
- 19:00 Ancient Aliens
- 20:00 America's Book Of Secrets
- 21:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 22:00 Patton 360
- 23:00 Monster Quest



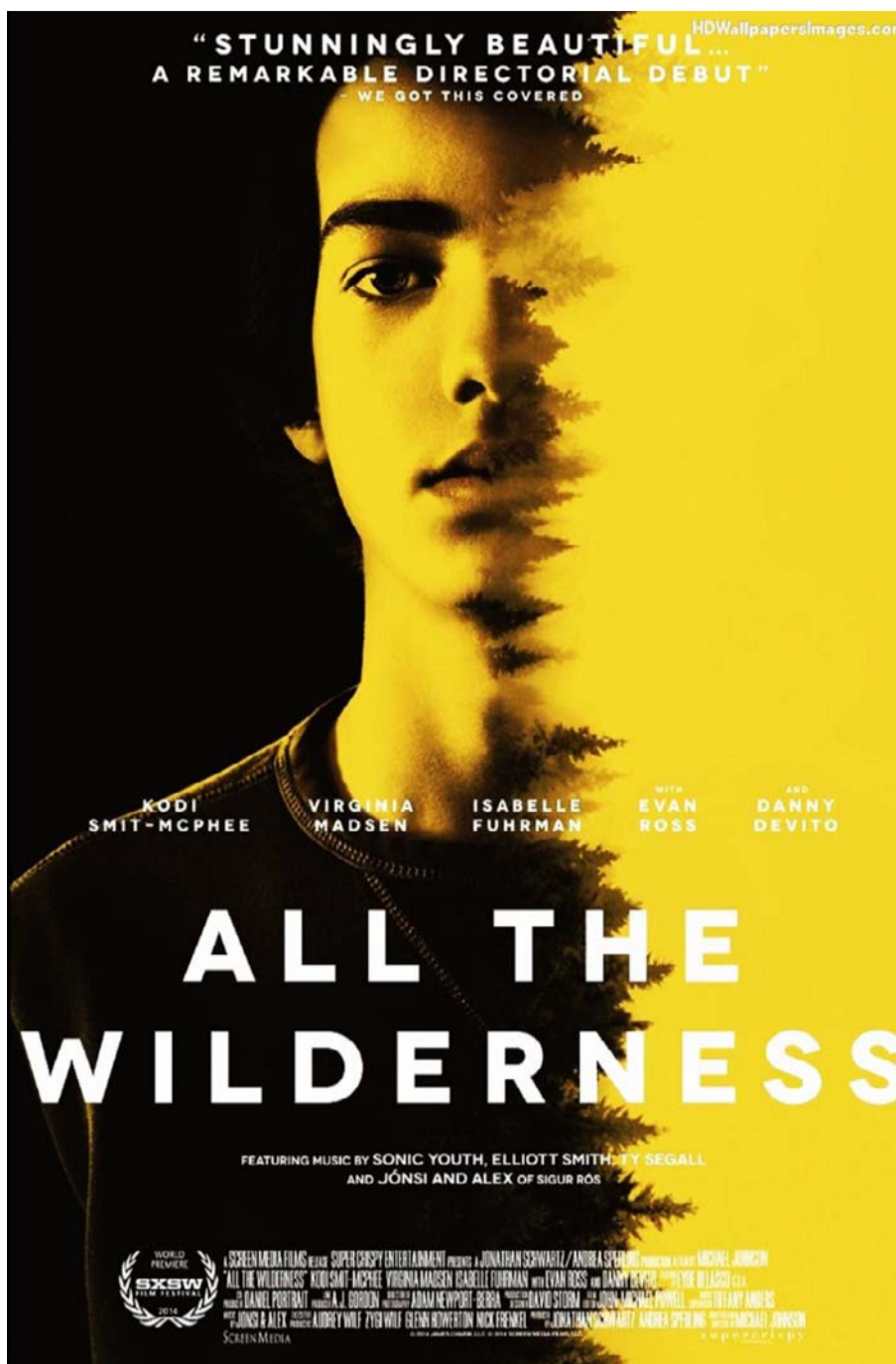
- 00:40 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen
- 01:30 Deadly Women
- 02:20 Suspicion
- 03:10 Murder Among Friends
- 04:00 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen
- 04:48 I Almost Got Away With It
- 05:36 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
- 06:24 Beauty Queen Murders
- 07:12 Blood Relatives
- 08:00 I'd Kill For You
- 08:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 09:40 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
- 10:30 Beauty Queen Murders
- 11:20 Blood Relatives
- 12:10 Disappeared
- 13:00 I'd Kill For You
- 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 14:40 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
- 15:30 Beauty Queen Murders
- 16:20 Blood Relatives
- 17:10 Swamp Murders
- 18:00 I'd Kill For You
- 18:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 19:40 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
- 20:30 Beauty Queen Murders



- 00:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 01:00 The Haunting Of...
- 02:00 My Haunted House
- 03:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
- 04:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 05:00 The Haunting Of...
- 06:00 My Haunted House
- 07:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 08:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 09:00 Homicide Hunter
- 10:00 It Takes A Killer
- 11:00 Evil Up Close
- 12:00 The First 48
- 13:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 14:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 15:00 Deadly Wives
- 16:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 17:00 Homicide Hunter
- 18:00 It Takes A Killer
- 19:00 It Takes A Killer
- 20:00 The First 48
- 21:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 22:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 23:00 Deadly Wives
- 24:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 25:00 Homicide Hunter
- 26:00 It Takes A Killer
- 27:00 It Takes A Killer
- 28:00 The First 48



- 00:05 Destroyed In Seconds
- 00:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 01:20 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 02:10 Dirty Jobs
- 03:00 World's Toughest Jobs
- 03:50 Ultimate Survival
- 04:40 Ultimate Survival
- 05:30 Ultimate Survival
- 06:20 How It's Made
- 06:40 How It's Made
- 07:00 Kenny The Shark
- 07:25 Awesome Adventures
- 07:50 Bad Dog
- 08:40 How It's Made
- 09:05 How It's Made
- 09:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?



ALL THE WILDERNESS ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 22:00 PJ Masks
- 22:30 PJ Masks
- 23:00 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
- 06:00 Supa Strikas
- 06:25 Supa Strikas
- 06:50 Counterfeit Cat
- 07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 07:15 K.C. Undercover
- 07:40 Atomic Puppet
- 08:10 Lab Rats
- 08:55 Danger Mouse
- 09:00 Lab Rats vs Mighty Med
- 09:50 Kirby Buckets
- 10:20 Kirby Buckets
- 10:45 Gravity Falls
- 11:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 06:00 Swamp People
- 06:50 Ax Men
- 07:40 Ice Road Truckers
- 08:30 Storage Wars Texas
- 08:55 Leepu And Pitbull
- 09:45 Lost In Transmission
- 10:35 Shipping Wars
- 11:25 Hoard Hunters
- 12:15 Ice Road Truckers
- 13:05 Ice Road Truckers
- 13:55 Pawn Stars
- 14:20 Pawn Stars
- 14:45 Pawn Stars Australia
- 15:10 Pawn Stars Australia
- 15:35 Pawn Stars
- 16:00 American Pickers
- 16:50 Storage Wars: Best Of
- 17:40 Hoard Hunters
- 18:30 American Pickers
- 19:20 American Pickers
- 20:10 Pawn Stars
- 20:35 Pawn Stars Best Of
- 21:00 Sean Bean On Waterloo
- 21:50 Aussie Pickers
- 22:40 Billion Dollar Wreck



- 00:00 Doc McStuffins
- 00:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 00:50 Zou
- 10:00 Loopdidoo
- 10:05 Art Attack
- 01:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:45 Calimero
- 02:00 Zou
- 02:15 Loopdidoo
- 02:30 Art Attack

- 16:20 My Restaurant In India
- 16:45 Grandma's Boy
- 17:15 Grandma's Boy
- 17:40 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
- 18:10 Around The World In 80 Dishes
- 19:05 What's For Sale?
- 19:30 Wineroads
- 20:00 Lucky Chow
- 20:50 My Restaurant In India
- 21:15 Grandma's Boy
- 21:40 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
- 22:05 Around The World In 80 Dishes
- 22:55 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 23:20 A Is For Apple
- 23:45 Lee Chan's World Food Tour



- 00:20 Brutal Killers
- 01:10 Animals Gone Wild
- 02:00 Mother Croc
- 02:50 Hollywood Bear Tragedy
- 03:45 The Invaders
- 04:40 Make You Laugh Out Loud
- 05:35 Mother Croc
- 06:30 Hollywood Bear Tragedy
- 07:25 The Invaders
- 08:20 Make You Laugh Out Loud
- 09:15 Unlikely Animal Friends Compilations
- 10:10 Extreme Animal Babies
- 11:05 Madagascar's Fantastic Creatures
- 12:00 Life On The Barrier Reef
- 12:55 Clouded Leopard
- 13:50 Making Panda
- 14:45 The Invaders
- 15:40 Make You Laugh Out Loud
- 16:35 Big Baboon House
- 17:30 Extreme Animal Babies
- 18:25 World's Creepiest Killers
- 19:20 The Invaders



- 00:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
- 01:00 Emmerdale
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 03:25 Together
- 03:55 Gino's Hidden Italy
- 04:20 Big Star's Little Star
- 05:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
- 06:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
- 07:05 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 08:00 Together
- 08:35 Gino's Hidden Italy
- 09:00 Big Star's Little Star
- 10:00 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
- 11:00 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
- 11:50 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 12:45 Emmerdale
- 13:15 Coronation Street
- 13:45 Coronation Street
- 14:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
- 15:10 Cash Trapped
- 16:00 Broadchurch
- 16:55 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 17:50 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
- 18:50 Emmerdale
- 19:15 Coronation Street
- 19:45 Coronation Street
- 20:10 Cash Trapped
- 21:00 Broadchurch
- 21:55 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...



- 00:10 Places We Go
- 00:25 My Restaurant In India
- 01:00 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 01:25 A Is For Apple
- 01:50 The Best Job In The World
- 02:15 Food School
- 02:40 Mega Food
- 03:30 Wineroads
- 03:55 Places We Go
- 04:20 Lucky Chow
- 04:45 Croatia's Finest
- 05:10 Croatia's Finest
- 05:35 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
- 06:00 Around The World In 80 Dishes
- 06:50 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 07:40 A Is For Apple
- 07:15 The Best Job In The World
- 08:05 Food School
- 08:30 Mega Food
- 09:20 Wineroads
- 09:45 Places We Go
- 10:10 Lucky Chow
- 10:35 Croatia's Finest
- 11:00 Croatia's Finest
- 11:25 Top Chef Top Table: Seoul
- 11:50 Around The World In 80 Dishes
- 12:40 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 13:05 A Is For Apple
- 13:35 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
- 14:00 Food School
- 14:30 What's For Sale?
- 14:55 What's For Sale?
- 15:25 Wineroads
- 15:50 Lucky Chow



THE EXPENDABLES 3 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- Wrong?
- 10:20 Mythbusters
- 11:10 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
- 14:30 Troy
- 15:20 Troy
- 16:10 Kenny The Shark
- 16:35 Awesome Adventures
- 17:00 Don't Drive Here
- 17:50 David Baddiel On The Silk Road
- 18:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 19:30 How It's Made
- 19:55 How It's Made
- 20:10 Mythbusters
- 21:20 Don't Drive Here
- 22:00 David Baddiel On The Silk Road
- 22:50 Destroyed In Seconds
- 23:15 Destroyed In Seconds
- 23:40 Ultimate Survival

- 21:20 Blood Relatives
- 22:10 I Am Homicide
- 23:00 Six Degrees Of Murder
- 23:50 Nowhere To Hide

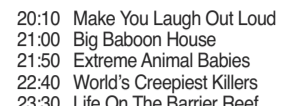


- 00:40 Prototype This
- 01:30 Prototype This
- 02:20 Prototype This
- 03:10 Prototype This
- 04:00 Mythbusters
- 04:48 Mythbusters
- 05:36 Weird Or What?
- 06:24 Weird Or What?
- 07:12 Weird Or What?
- 08:00 How Do They Do It?
- 08:26 Prototype This
- 09:14 Weird Or What?
- 10:02 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
- 10:26 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
- 10:50 How Do They Do It?
- 11:14 Food Factory
- 11:38 Mythbusters
- 12:26 Prototype This
- 13:14 Weird Or What?
- 14:02 How Do They Do It?
- 14:26 Food Factory
- 14:50 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
- 15:14 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
- 15:38 Mythbusters
- 16:26 Prototype This
- 17:14 Weird Or What?
- 18:02 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
- 18:26 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
- 18:50 Prototype This
- 19:40 Weird Or What?
- 20:30 Invent It Rich
- 21:20 How Do They Do It?
- 21:45 Food Factory
- 22:10 Magic Of Science
- 22:35 Magic Of Science
- 23:00 Invent It Rich
- 23:50 Human Nature

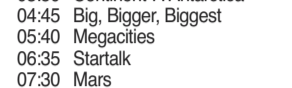
- 03:00 Calimero
- 03:15 Zou
- 03:30 Loopdidoo
- 03:45 Art Attack
- 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:25 Calimero
- 04:45 Loopdidoo
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:35 Calimero
- 05:50 Zou
- 06:00 Loopdidoo
- 06:15 Art Attack
- 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:50 Calimero
- 07:00 Zou
- 07:20 Loopdidoo
- 07:35 Art Attack
- 08:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 08:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 09:00 Goldie & Bear
- 09:30 The Lion Guard
- 10:00 The Lion Guard
- 10:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 11:00 Sofia The First
- 11:30 The Lion Guard
- 12:00 Doc McStuffins
- 12:30 Little Mermaid
- 13:00 Sofia The First
- 13:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 14:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 14:30 Doc McStuffins
- 15:00 The Lion Guard
- 15:30 Sofia The First
- 16:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 16:30 Doc McStuffins
- 17:00 The Lion Guard
- 17:30 PJ Masks
- 18:00 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
- 18:30 Goldie & Bear
- 19:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 19:30 Little Mermaid
- 20:00 PJ Masks
- 20:30 Sofia The First
- 21:00 Sofia The First: The Curse Of Princess Ivy



- 00:20 Pawn Stars Australia
- 00:45 Pawn Stars Australia
- 01:10 American Restoration
- 02:00 Storage Wars
- 02:25 Storage Wars
- 02:50 Counting Cars
- 03:15 Counting Cars
- 03:40 Shipping Wars
- 04:05 Shipping Wars
- 04:30 Pawn Stars Best Of
- 05:00 Britain's Bloody Crown: War Of The Roses



- 20:10 Make You Laugh Out Loud
- 21:00 Big Baboon House
- 21:50 Extreme Animal Babies
- 22:40 World's Creepiest Killers
- 23:30 Life On The Barrier Reef



- 00:10 Mars
- 01:00 Continent 7: Antarctica
- 02:00 Startalk
- 02:55 Do Or Die
- 03:20 Do Or Die
- 03:50 Continent 7: Antarctica
- 04:45 Big, Bigger, Biggest Megacities
- 05:40 Startalk
- 07:30 Mars
- 08:25 Nazi Megastructures
- 09:20 Big, Bigger, Biggest
- 10:15 The Border
- 11:10 Big Fix Alaska
- 12:05 Dirty Rotten Survival
- 13:00 Nazi Megastructures
- 14:00 Mars
- 15:00 Startalk
- 16:00 The Border
- 17:00 Big Fix Alaska
- 18:00 Dirty Rotten Survival
- 19:00 Continent 7: Antarctica
- 20:00 The Border
- 20:50 Big Fix Alaska
- 21:40 Dirty Rotten Survival
- 22:30 Continent 7: Antarctica
- 23:20 Megacities



- 00:00 No Way Out
- 02:00 Snakehead Swamp
- 04:00 Christmas Twister
- 06:00 The Expendables 3
- 08:00 Double Team
- 10:00 Brick Mansions
- 12:00 In The Name Of The King: The Last Mission
- 14:00 The Expendables 3
- 16:00 Double Team
- 18:00 Brick Mansions
- 19:45 Fast & Furious 6
- 22:00 The Purge



- 00:00 Freaks Of Nature
- 01:45 How Do You Know
- 04:00 Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star
- 06:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging
- 08:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
- 10:00 Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star
- 11:45 How Do You Know
- 14:00 A Madea Christmas
- 16:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
- 18:00 Superfast
- 20:00 Ghostbusters II
- 22:00 National Security



- 00:00 The Last Kingdom
- 01:00 The Catch
- 03:00 Mistresses
- 04:00 Stitches
- 05:00 Good Morning America - Weekend
- 06:00 Prison Break
- 07:00 Drop Dead Diva
- 08:00 Castle
- 09:00 Stitches
- 10:00 The Catch
- 11:00 This Is Us
- 12:00 Shark Tank
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Drop Dead Diva
- 15:00 Live Good Morning America
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Castle
- 19:00 Once Upon A Time
- 20:00 The Catch
- 21:00 Bones
- 22:00 Game Of Silence
- 23:00 Tyrant



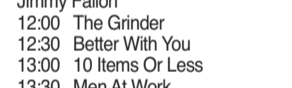
- 03:30 Reds
- 07:00 War Horse
- 09:30 Foxcatcher
- 12:00 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike
- 14:00 Finding Forrester
- 16:30 War Horse
- 19:00 WarGames
- 21:00 The Last Tycoon
- 23:15 Farewell My Queen



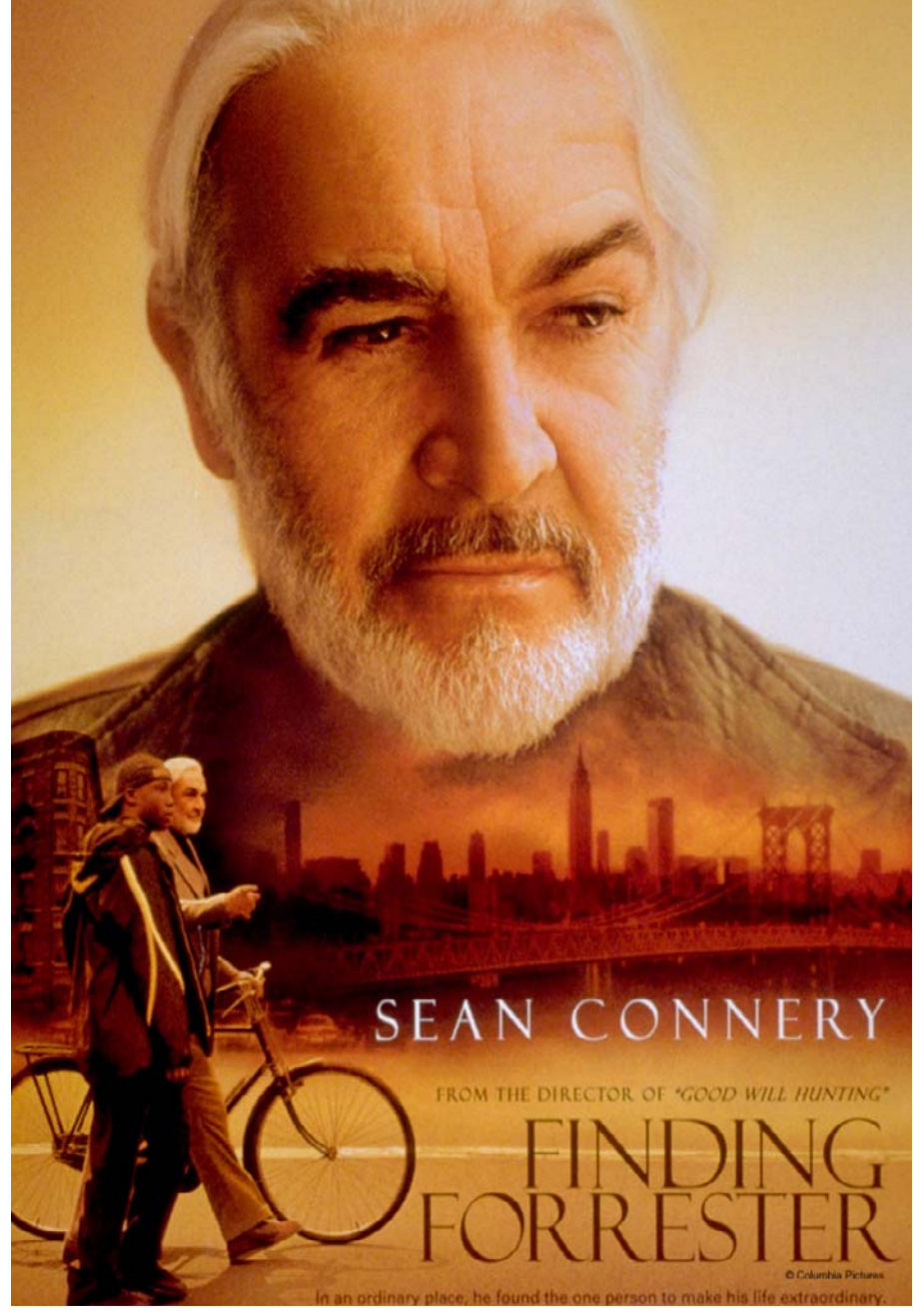
- 00:00 Superstore
- 00:30 Cougar Town
- 01:00 Cougar Town
- 01:30 Veep
- 02:00 Veep
- 02:30 It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia
- 03:00 Last Man Standing
- 03:30 The Simpsons
- 04:00 Better With You
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 05:30 10 Items Or Less
- 06:00 The Grinder
- 06:30 Men At Work
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:00 Better With You
- 08:30 10 Items Or Less
- 09:00 Last Man Standing
- 09:30 Wrecked
- 10:00 Dr. Ken
- 10:30 Men At Work
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:00 The Grinder
- 12:30 Better With You
- 13:00 10 Items Or Less
- 13:30 Men At Work
- 14:00 The Simpsons
- 14:30 Wrecked
- 15:00 Dr. Ken
- 15:30 Cougar Town
- 16:00 Cougar Town
- 16:30 The Grinder
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:00 Last Man Standing
- 18:30 The Simpsons
- 19:00 Truth Be Told
- 19:30 Dr. Ken
- 20:00 Two And A Half Men
- 20:30 Superstore
- 21:00 Cougar Town
- 21:30 Cougar Town



- 01:15 Daddy I'm A Zombie
- 03:00 Egon And Donci
- 04:30 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
- 06:00 Blue Elephant 2
- 07:45 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
- 09:30 Marco Macaco
- 11:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 12:45 Egon And Donci
- 14:30 Blackie And Kanuto
- 16:15 The Heart Of The Oak
- 18:00 Marco Macaco
- 20:00 Harriet The Spy
- 22:00 Blackie And Kanuto
- 23:45 The Heart Of The Oak



- 00:30 Black Beauty
- 02:15 Marvel's Iron Man & Captain America: Heroes United
- 03:45 Get Santa
- 05:30 Mousehunt
- 07:15 Black Beauty
- 09:00 Jingle All The Way 2
- 10:45 Get Santa
- 12:45 Peter Pan Live!
- 15:00 Alone For Christmas
- 17:00 The Good Dinosaur
- 19:00 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend?
- 21:00 Little Man Tate
- 23:00 Alone For Christmas



FINDING FORRESTER ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

CLASSIFIEDS



Kuwait Times
 Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (15/12/2016 TO 21/12/2016)

Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time
SHARQIA-1 MOANA MOANA MOANA MOANA TAHT AL TARABEZA COLLATERAL BEAUTY	1:00 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:45 PM 10:15 PM 12:30 AM	ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	11:15 PM	MOANA -3D- 4DX ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY -3D- 4DX ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY -3D- 4DX ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY -3D- 4DX MOANA -3D- 4DX MOANA -3D- 4DX MOANA -3D- 4DX ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY -3D- 4DX ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY -3D- 4DX	4:15 PM 6:45 PM 9:45 PM 11:30 AM 1:30 AM 2:15 PM 4:45 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 12:30 AM	THE NEIGHBOR COLLATERAL BEAUTY	10:15 PM 12:30 AM
SHARQIA-2 ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY-3D ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	12:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:30 PM 9:30 PM 12:30 AM	FANAR-3 TAHT AL TARABEZA TAHT AL TARABEZA INTO THE FOREST MISS SLOANE INTO THE FOREST INTO THE FOREST	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 9:30 PM 11:45 PM	FANAR-4 ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	1:00 PM 3:45 PM 6:30 PM 9:15 PM 12:05 AM	AVENUES-3 MANTAQH MAHZOURAH MANTAQH MAHZOURAH MANTAQH MAHZOURAH MANTAQH MAHZOURAH MANTAQH MAHZOURAH ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY THE LAST KING	12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 1:00 AM
SHARQIA-3 MOANA COLLATERAL BEAUTY MANTAQH MAHZOURAH COLLATERAL BEAUTY MANTAQH MAHZOURAH ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	12:00 PM 2:30 PM 4:45 PM 7:00 PM 9:15 PM 11:30 PM	FANAR-5 THE LAST KING MISS SLOANE MISS SLOANE MANTAQH MAHZOURAH MANTAQH MAHZOURAH MANTAQH MAHZOURAH THE LAST KING	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:15 PM 7:00 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM	AVENUES-4 COLLATERAL BEAUTY COLLATERAL BEAUTY MOANA Special Show "MOANA" MOANA COLLATERAL BEAUTY COLLATERAL BEAUTY COLLATERAL BEAUTY	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:45 PM 3:45 PM 6:15 PM 8:45 PM 11:00 PM 1:15 AM	360~1 ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY -3D ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY -3D ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	11:30 AM 2:30 PM 5:30 PM 8:30 PM 11:30 PM
MUHALAB-1 COLLATERAL BEAUTY COLLATERAL BEAUTY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY MANTAQH MAHZOURAH MANTAQH MAHZOURAH TAHT AL TARABEZA	12:45 PM 3:00 PM 5:15 PM 8:15 PM 10:15 PM 12:15 AM	MARINA-1 COLLATERAL BEAUTY MANTAQH MAHZOURAH TAHT AL TARABEZA COLLATERAL BEAUTY MANTAQH MAHZOURAH MANTAQH MAHZOURAH ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	11:45 AM 2:00 PM 3:45 PM 6:00 PM 8:15 PM	AVENUES-5 ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY -3D Special Show "ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY" ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY Special Show "ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY" ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY -3D ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	12:00 PM 3:00 PM 2:00 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 12:05 AM	360~2 ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY TAHT AL TARABEZA LAF WA DAWARAN TAHT AL TARABEZA TAHT AL TARABEZA TAHT AL TARABEZA	12:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:15 PM 10:30 PM 12:45 AM
MUHALAB-2 MOANA MOANA MOANA MOANA COLLATERAL BEAUTY COLLATERAL BEAUTY COLLATERAL BEAUTY	11:45 AM 2:00 PM 4:15 PM 6:30 PM 8:45 PM 11:00 PM 1:15 AM	MARINA-2 ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	11:30 AM 2:30 PM 5:30 PM 8:30 PM 11:30 PM	AVENUES-6 COLLATERAL BEAUTY COLLATERAL BEAUTY COLLATERAL BEAUTY COLLATERAL BEAUTY COLLATERAL BEAUTY	12:30 PM 2:45 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:30 PM 11:45 PM	AL-KOUT.1 ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	1:15 PM 4:00 PM 6:45 PM 9:30 PM 12:15 AM
MUHALAB-3 ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY-3D ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	12:00 PM 3:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 12:05 AM	MARINA-3 MOANA MOANA MOANA MOANA COLLATERAL BEAUTY COLLATERAL BEAUTY	12:30 PM 2:45 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:30 PM 11:45 PM	AVENUES-7 MOANA MOANA INTO THE FOREST INTO THE FOREST INTO THE FOREST INTO THE FOREST	1:00 PM 3:30 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 10:45 PM 1:00 AM	AL-KOUT.2 MOANA MOANA MOANA MOANA MISS SLOANE MISS SLOANE	12:45 PM 3:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:30 AM
FANAR-1 COLLATERAL BEAUTY COLLATERAL BEAUTY COLLATERAL BEAUTY COLLATERAL BEAUTY COLLATERAL BEAUTY COLLATERAL BEAUTY	1:30 PM 3:45 PM 6:00 PM 8:15 PM 10:30 PM 12:45 AM	AVENUES-8 FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM TROLLS DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi Special Show "ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY" THE NEIGHBOR	12:15 PM 3:00 PM 5:15 PM 5:15 PM 8:15 PM	AL-KOUT.3 MISS SLOANE TAHT AL TARABEZA MISS SLOANE MANTAQH MAHZOURAH MANTAQH MAHZOURAH TAHT AL TARABEZA	1:00 PM 3:30 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 10:45 PM 1:00 AM	AL-KOUT.4 COLLATERAL BEAUTY INTO THE FOREST INTO THE FOREST COLLATERAL BEAUTY INTO THE FOREST COLLATERAL BEAUTY	12:15 PM 2:30 PM 4:45 PM 7:00 PM 9:15 PM 11:30 PM
FANAR-2 MOANA MOANA MOANA MOANA ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY-3D	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM	AVENUES-2 MOANA -3D- 4DX MOANA -3D- 4DX	11:30 AM 1:45 PM	BAIRAQ-1 MOANA MOANA ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY	11:45 AM 2:00 PM 1:15 PM		

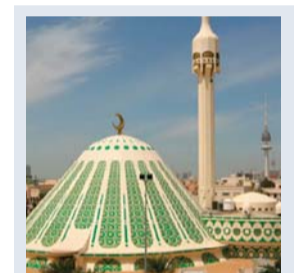
CHANGE OF NAME

I HATIM S/o MANSUR, holder of Indian Passport No. K8514434 and Civil ID No. 291072601473 has changed my name to HATIM MANSUR NAJMI, hereinafter in all my dealing and documents I will be known by name of HATIM MANSUR NAJMI. (C 5249) 17-12-2016

I, Chejalla Nageshwar Raju (old name) S/o. Chejarla Pedda Chengal Raju, R/o. H.No. 2/150, Bommaravaram (V) & (P), Obulavaripalli (M), Y.S.R. Kadapa, Dist., A.P. hereby state that I have changed my name as CHEJARLA NAGESWAR RAJU (new name). (C 5247) 13-12-2016

SITUATION WANTED

Purchase Manager experience 20 years in construction field, seeking for job in one of the leading Co. Tel: 99061637. (C 5248) 18-12-2016



PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	05:12
Shorook	06:37
Duhr:	11:45
Asr:	14:31
Maghrib:	16:53
Isha:	18:16

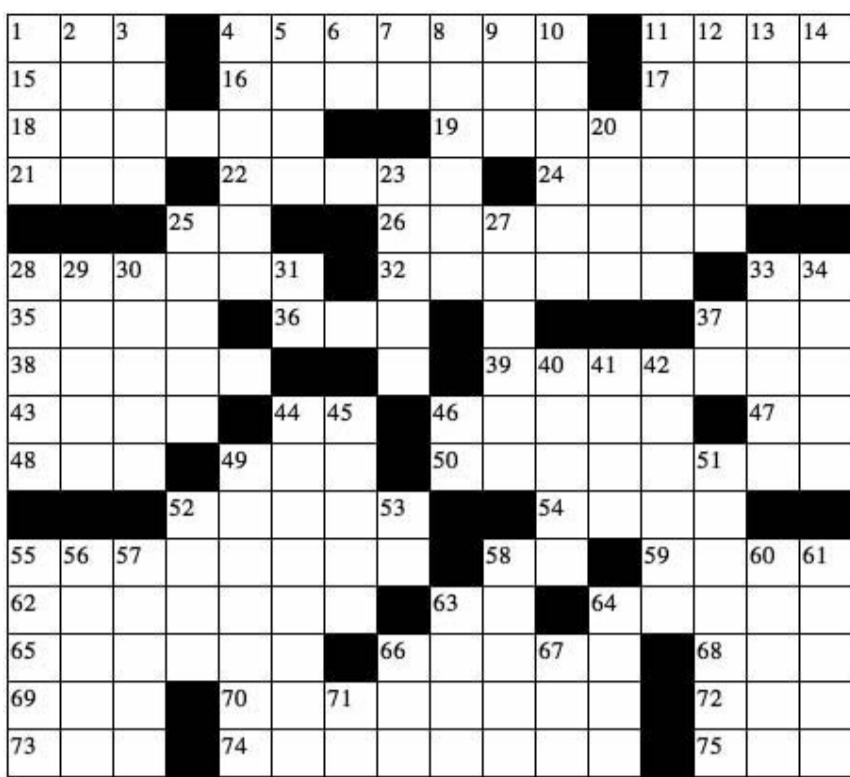
Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Flight Schedule

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 19/12/2016				Departure Flights on Monday 19/12/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
KAC	776	Riyadh	00:20	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	PIA	206	Lahore	00:40
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:50
KAC	102	London	00:55	BBC	044	Dhaka	01:30
KAC	742	Dammam	01:00	KAC	417	Manila	02:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	THY	773	Istanbul	02:25
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:55
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
DLH	635	Doha	01:55	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	03:35
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	OMA	645	Muscat	03:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:05	UAE	857	Dubai	03:55
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	ABY	127	Sharjah	03:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	154	Istanbul	04:00
BRZ	193	TBS	02:30	SAW	705	Damascus	04:10
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:55	QTR	1072	Doha	04:10
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	FDB	051	Dubai	04:40
FDB	069	Dubai	03:05	KAC	788	Jeddah	04:40
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	05:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	RJA	640	Amman	05:20
CEB	0018	Manila	03:15	SVA	510	Riyadh	05:30
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	GFA	215	Bahrain	05:50
KAC	358	Kochi	03:30	JZR	777	Jeddah	06:00
KAC	784	Jeddah	03:55	UAE	875	Dubai	06:05
MSC	501	Alexandria	04:05	FDB	063	Dubai	06:30
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	JZR	177	Dubai	06:50
KAC	284	Dhaka	04:55	KAC	502	Beirut	06:50
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	QTR	1080	Doha	06:50
JZR	503	Luxor	05:10	ABY	123	Sharjah	07:05
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	GFA	217	Bahrain	07:15
KAC	354	BLR	05:20	KAC	674	Dubai	07:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:45	KAC	620	Dubai	07:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	FDB	057	Dubai	07:30
KAC	384	Delhi	06:05	KNE	381	Taif	07:35
KAC	364	Colombo	06:05	KAC	166	Rome	07:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:20	KAC	563	Amman	08:00
BAW	157	London	06:40	BAW	156	London	08:40
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	07:00	FDB	054	Dubai	08:55
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	743	Dammam	09:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	08:20	KAC	117	New York	09:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	DLH	634	Frankfurt	09:15
KAC	382	Delhi	08:45	JAI	572	Mumbai	09:35
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	FDB	5053	Dubai	09:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	786	Jeddah	09:45
KAC	352	Kochi	09:10	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	09:55
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	MEA	402	Beirut	10:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ALK	229	Colombo	10:10
IRA	667	Esfahan	10:00	UAE	859	Dubai	10:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	GFA	219	Bahrain	10:10
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	QTR	1082	Doha	10:35
KAC	774	Riyadh	11:05	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	10:40
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	10:40
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	JZR	241	Amman	11:00
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	KAC	164	Paris	11:25
KAC	744	Dammam	12:10	JZR	185	Dubai	12:05
FEG	953	Asyut	12:35	FDB	071	Dubai	12:05
JZR	561	Sohag	12:40	JAI	574	Mumbai	12:10
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	BBC	143	Dhaka	12:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KAC	162	Geneva	23:55

CROSSWORD 1465



ACROSS

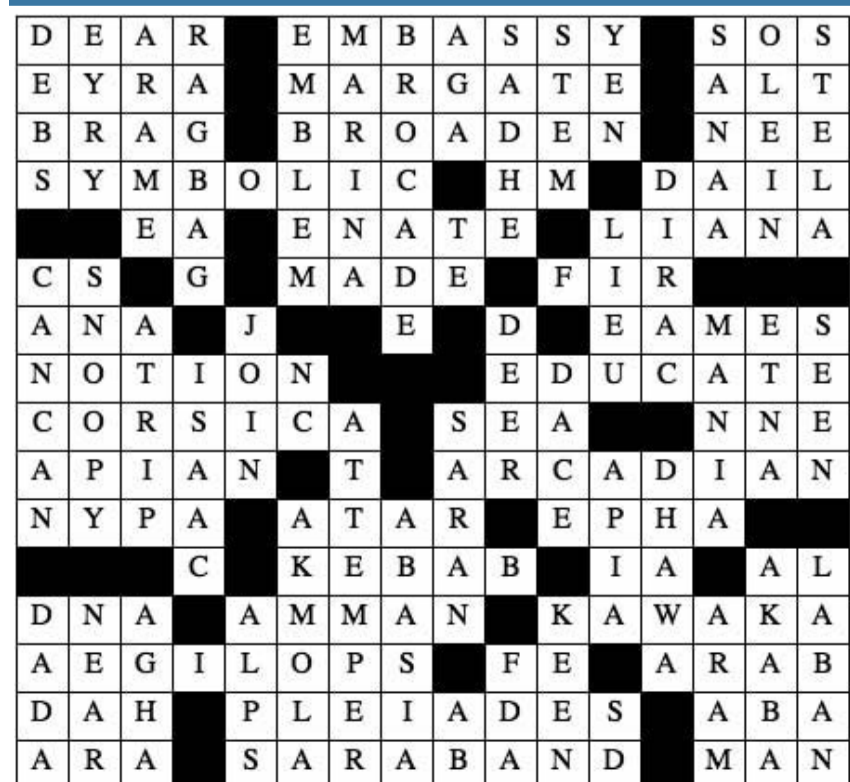
1. An enzyme that catalyzes the oxidation of many body compounds (e.g., epinephrine and norepinephrine and serotonin).
4. Any shrub or tree of the genus *Banksia* having alternate leathery leaves apetalous yellow flowers often in showy heads and conelike fruit with winged seeds.
11. A British imperial capacity measure (liquid or dry) equal to 4 gills or 568.26 cubic centimeters.
15. Black-and-white short-necked web-footed diving bird of northern seas.
16. Of or relating to the ancient Aramaic languages.
17. Type genus of the *Aceraceae*.
18. Feed, care for, and rear young birds for flight.
19. A method of self-defense without weapons that was developed in China and Japan.
21. Hormone secreted by the posterior pituitary gland (trade name Pitressin) and also by nerve endings in the hypothalamus.
22. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
24. Resembling the new moon in shape.
26. Enter into a list of prospective jurors.
28. A large fleet.
32. Firmly fastened or secured against opening.
35. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
36. A long thin fluffy scarf of feathers or fur.
38. Someone who asks a question.
39. A man who is a stupid fool.
47. A yellow trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
48. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
50. The condition of having no arms.
54. Type genus of the family *Arcidae*.
55. A landowner who leases to others.
59. The inner and longer of the two bones of the human forearm.
62. Give life-like qualities to.
65. Ruffed grouse.
68. Provide with clothes or put clothes on.
69. 100 avos equal 1 pataca.
70. A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (trade name *Cloniril*).
72. A benevolent aspect of *Devi*.
73. (British) Your grandmother.
74. Tuberos or rhizomatous herbaceous perennials.
75. A female person who has the same parents as another person.

DOWN

1. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
2. A Scottish word.
3. An endorsement.
4. Capital and largest city of Iraq.
5. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).

6. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
7. A metric unit of length equal to 1000 meters (or 0.621371 miles).
8. A mountain peak in the Andes in Bolivia (21,391 feet high).
9. Being one more than two.
10. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (trade names *Acular* and *Toradol*) that is administered only intramuscularly.
11. Hurt or upset.
12. Of or relating to a seizure or convulsion.
13. A structure in which animals lay eggs or give birth to their young.
14. Consistent with fact or reality.
20. The month following May and preceding July.
23. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
25. A manservant who acts as a personal attendant to his employer.
27. Manufactured in standard sizes to be shipped and assembled elsewhere.
29. Follower of Rastafarianism.
30. A person who makes things.
31. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
33. A native or inhabitant of Iran.
34. A genus of *Ploceidae*.
37. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
40. A wall hanging of heavy handwoven fabric with pictorial designs.
41. A male monarch or emperor (especially of Russia prior to 1917).
42. (usually plural) The state of having reflex spasms of the diaphragm accompanied by a rapid closure of the glottis producing an audible sound.
44. Late Jurassic carnivorous dinosaur.
45. A river in southeastern France.
46. The syllable naming the fourth (subdominant) note of the diatonic scale in solmization.
49. A genus of Old World mints of the family *Labiatae*.
51. Exhaled breath.
52. Designer drug designed to have the effects of amphetamines (it floods the brain with serotonin) but to avoid the drug laws.
53. A state in north central United States.
56. A statistical method for making simultaneous comparisons between two or more means.
57. A fine strong sheer silky fabric made of silk or rayon or nylon.
58. Dwell (archaic).
60. The mother-in-law of Ruth whose story is told in the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament.
61. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria and closely related to Hausa.
63. The template for protein synthesis.
64. Type genus of the *Alcidae* comprising solely the razorbill.
67. A rapid escape (as by criminals).
71. Being one more than fifty.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are revered for your ability to make commonsense decisions that affect others. You just somehow know what the community wants and needs. You enjoy a social life that includes a contribution of your time that is involved in volunteer work. You might volunteer your Sunday afternoons to a pregnancy and adoption center in or near your town. You could be helpful in the outreach and intervention program for adolescents. You might also help to sort and tag clothing items, organize the shop, design window arrangements and perform cashier duties for a thrift shop. You are good at getting your message over to others and may be called upon to do just that. Your timing is perfect when it comes to being helpful for others.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today should find you with the ability to take charge and tackle tasks that require real discipline and organization. You may, however, have some serious or contemplative moments. Family members or friends may have to call out your name, if they want to get you to respond to their words. By this afternoon, you will have completed all your tasks. There is a lot of motivation to help the younger members with their errands. Someone passing by your house may get the feeling of a party instead of work. You have an opportunity to join up with others this afternoon. You enjoy meeting a variety of people. There could be a museum, art gallery or very large flea market or charity drive today. Laughter and music is easy to find.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Follow through now on a promise that you made earlier last week. This could be a great day for thinking and ideas. You have plenty of mentors and can also provide the same comfort to others that just want to talk. It could be you have volunteered to visit people that are handicapped or not able to get out without some help. A grand party gathering may place you around the unmarried people your age. This time the conversation is in a better sharing mode. You have a loving spirit. Marry for money and then learn to love 'em; that's what your heart tells you now, as a new cycle gets underway in your life. Does that sound cynical maybe so-but it does reflect the yearning you feel for security now, and it suggests the kind of compromises you are willing to make.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You will benefit from taking an inward direction, turning away from the outward world a bit and allowing new ideas and information to filter through. Accepting compliments from someone is usually a nice experience this time is no exception. Someone you do not know flatters you on your preferences or possessions. Keeping an eye on your money, you shop to fill the refrigerator with some of your family's favorite foods today. You may find it very easy to enjoy and value your own life circumstances or to feel especially kind towards a friend or loved one. This evening is a good time to think and study-you have a liking for new ideas. This evening you may find yourself engrossed in writing a letter or making a special phone call.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is a great day with lots of energy. This is the day to start new projects or push forward with those projects already begun. You may enjoy a sense of creating your own opportunities. You may decide to do volunteer work in a children's clinic. You could answer phones, file, log in medicines and donations, run errands or prepare information packets on those important immunizations. Diet and exercise somehow mean more now, as you just want to feel good about yourself and the way that you do things. A sense of belonging to something bigger than the merely personal becomes a greater focus in your life. You attach a lot of importance to friendships and you enjoy taking part in a group celebration this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Some frustrations could exist at home but they disappear quickly. There are many things for your family to experience today and it might be a good idea to write the choices of activities down on separate pieces of paper and have them draw or choose. Divide them into two jars: one marked responsibilities and the other jar marked wishes. Divide the responsibilities evenly, even if it is not a thing you or someone else usually does, and then pull out a number of wishes. Now, a fun day has been created. Mysteries and arguments and difficult endless tasks have come to an end. Now you have cooperation and laughter throughout the whole day. Learning and passing on to others what you have learned or experienced will keep the doors of communication open.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Family, home and the other connections in your life give you a sense of mission. There is growth and gain through these things. This is generally a fruitful period for real-estate investments. Seeking advice with this subject would be good. Knowledge and communicating take care of a natural need to learn. You should benefit appreciably from allowing your unique qualities to grow. Some new solutions to problems that may have confounded you before now may become evident at this time. A new idea or invention comes to your attention that will make the life of someone in your family much easier; some sort of easy-open can opener would be convenient for those that do not see well. Your dreams can become your next reality.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You will flourish by pursuing your dreams of how life could be. Don't be afraid to create a plan and see the completed project-make those dreams real. This could be anything like the next winner of a popular television contest, the winner in a dance contest, the number one author of the month, etc. There is an increased need to guide others, perhaps as you were guided. This may be the beginning of some volunteer opportunity. You enjoy viewing and showing off the older parts of your city and may decide to join a heritage guild. You enjoy teaching about the historic buildings, music, food, crafts and exhibits. These things reflect the process of growth to today's lifestyle in your city. You might enjoy being a tour guide.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

Your guidance is needed today and you are wise in determining the avenues of support that the advice-seeker may need. This could mean a friend within your religious group or a neighbor-you are happy to help. This afternoon you work on a budget. Others in your family want and agree to help make things easier. There may be some part-time work activity going on during the weekends. What you want to spend during the holiday and what is realistic to spend are important points to ponder just now. All this talk about money and other people's problems does not put a dent in a most fun day. You find yourself on the receiving end of a long line of well-wishers, at a well-planned party. Surprise!



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A friend or associate may come to you for help in working through some issues that are very personal. Being in a position to understand allows you to help resolve some potentially explosive subject matter. You are able to cut to the chase and get at what lies beneath and behind the problem. The secret to successfully helping this person is to step away from the approval mode and help with the facts instead. Decisions are easily made when we know the facts. Your friendship is valued. You might consider volunteer work that would serve as a court-appointed advocate for a child in protective placement or in a disputed custody case. You would be very good at investigation and recommendations surrounding the best interest of young people.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

This would be an ideal time for surrounding yourself with friends and young people and for having a good time. You are comfortable with your particular situation and enjoy support from those around you. It may be that time of the year, when you and your friends visit each other just to see or help with the decorations at each other's homes and enjoy the afternoon. Perhaps the visits will begin in one home and progress to others for what is called a progressive dinner party. The end would be for dessert and a hot drink and opening gift packages, if appropriate. You should be feeling very healthy and ready for most any activity. It is difficult to connect with peers when one is not focused. This current activity is perfect for nurturing friendships.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Fondness and appreciation for the past and for your roots in life take on a greater meaning and importance for you now. Distant family members may be visiting from a distant land. Research goes into finding a family crest or in finding a gift that will help keep the memories of this time fresh. Making your home situation most pleasant and attractive plays a part in this. Of course, the sale or purchase of real estate could bring you much gain before this cycle is through, if you are looking to sell your home. You may find it easy to enjoy or value your own life situation today or you could find yourself feeling especially kindhearted toward a friend or loved one. A visitor in your home pays you a nice compliment on your decorating choices.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Astronomy

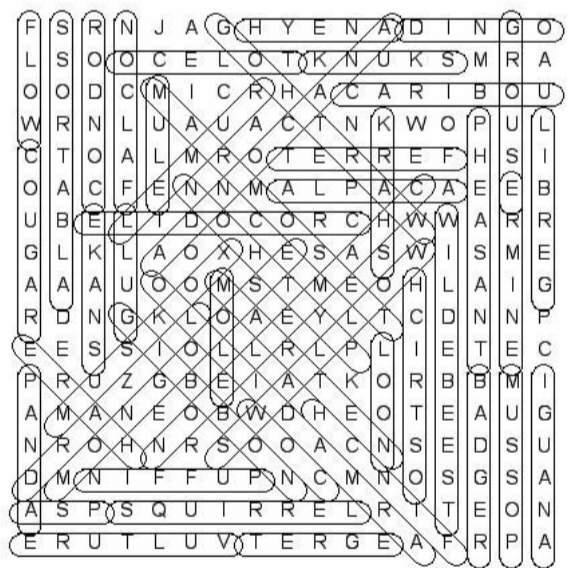
Find and circle all of the Astronomy related words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.

T H T F A R C E C A P S P E L F A I R S
 O R B I T S R T S P M E M I E V R E S O
 N T O D S P S A E A R E M I G O O T I Q H R
 S S F I R A U O T I T H L N O R O U E E
 R O T O E C N E G S T E R K U N B I C D
 A L E R M E O E P Y Y E L A Y B O N A G
 S A C E O S E N E O P R T L L W N O P I
 L R L T N H T A S U C N A E I S A X S A
 U W I S O U R R S T E S F N O T M Y P N
 P I P A R T A H E C E R E L I M E A E T
 O N S P T T O N A G A L A L W B T U E G
 A D E O S L A M A W S R L Y E S E R D A
 L R D G A E I L D R S A E A T T O O N L
 U E I E E X A E A Y I L N L T I R C I
 B T T E O X T S S I R A L O P I V A E L
 E A A R I A T M O S P H E R E O A S E
 N R P E H U E L O H K C A L B O K N R O
 R C S W Q M M U H I V E R S E S C T A G
 A N D R O M E D A G A L A X Y R O N P G

- ANDROMEDA GALAXY
- APOGEE
- ASTEROID
- ASTRONOMER
- ATMOSPHERE
- AURORA
- BINARY STAR
- BLACK HOLE
- CONSTELLATION
- CORONA
- CRATER
- DEEP SPACE
- ECLIPSE
- EQUINOX
- GALAXIES
- GALILEO
- GRAVITY
- HUBBLE
- KEPLER
- LIGHT YEAR
- METEOR
- MILKY WAY
- MOON
- NEBULA
- ORBIT
- PARSEC
- PERIGEE
- POLARIS
- PROXIMA CENTAURI
- PULSARS
- QUASARS
- RED GIANT
- SATELLITE
- SOLAR SYSTEM
- SOLAR WIND
- SPACE SHUTTLE
- SPACECRAFT
- STARS
- SUN
- SUPERNOVA
- TELESCOPE
- TIDES
- UNIVERSE
- WHITE DWARF

Yesterday's Solution

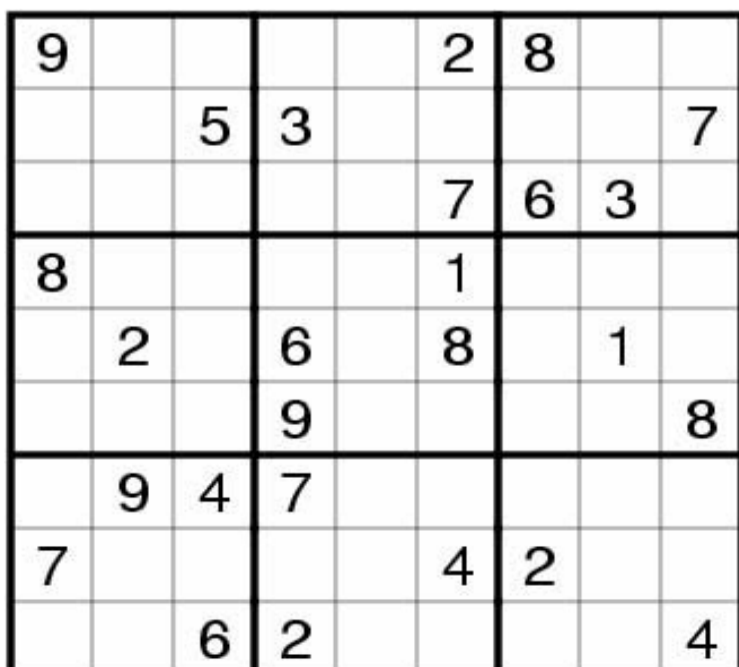
Animals 3



- ALBATROSS
- ALPACA
- ANACONDA
- ARMADILLO
- ASP
- BADGER
- CARIBOU
- CHAMELEON
- CONDOR
- COUGAR
- COW
- CROCODILE
- DINGO
- EGRET
- ERMINE
- FALCON
- FERRET
- FINCH
- GIBBON
- GOROUSE
- GULL
- HARE
- HYENA
- IGUANA
- LEMUR
- LIZARD
- LOON
- MARMOSSET
- MARTEN
- MOLE
- MONGOOSE
- MULE
- MUSKOX
- OCOTLO
- OSTRICH
- PANDA
- PHEASANT
- POSSUM
- PUFFIN
- PYTHON
- SHARK
- SKUNK
- SNAKE
- SQUIRREL
- SWALLOW
- VULTURE
- WARTHOG
- WILDBEEST
- WOLF

The hidden animal is: JAMAICAN WOODPECKER

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadisiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaheel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khalidiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khalidiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 18/12/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 18 °C

By Day : Mostly sunny with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h
By Night : Cold with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h and some high clouds will appear

SFC. CHART

MSL Analysis (DPA)
Valid 0000 UTC 19 DEC 2016

Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	partly cloudy	partly cloudy + raising dust+ scatt.rain	partly cloudy + raising dust over open areas	cloudy
Min Temp °C	06	08	03	03
Max Temp °C	18	15	14	15
Wind Direction	north westerly to light variable	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly to light variable
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 26	20 - 40	15 - 40	06 - 26

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches
no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	Max °C
KUWAIT CITY	12	18
KUWAIT AIRPORT	06	18
ABDLY	06	18
BUBYAN	06	18
JAHRA	09	18
FAILAKA ISLAND	10	17
SALMIYAH	13	16
AHMADI	13	16
JAL ALIYAH	07	17
QAROH ISLAND	16	18
UMM AL-MARADEM	16	18
NUWAISIB	09	19
WAFRA	07	19
MANAGISH	07	17
SALMY	06	17
MUTRIBA	05	21

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	17
Min Temp (°C)	04
Max Rel Hum (%)	80
Min Rel Hum (%)	29
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	25 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

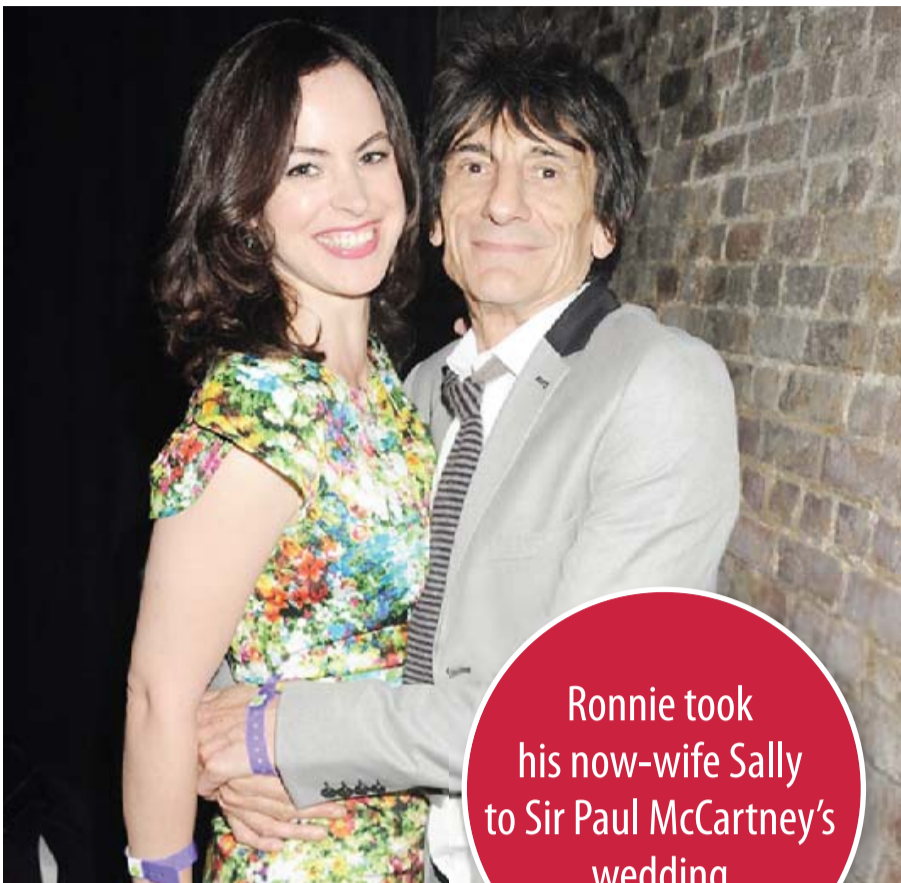
Prayer Times

Fajr	05:12
Sunrise	06:37
Zuhr	11:44
Asr	14:34
Sunset	16:53
Isha	18:15

PRIVATE CLINICS

<p>Ophthalmologists</p> <p>Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor 25622444 Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea 25752222 Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171 Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999 Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700 Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223 Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223</p> <p>Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)</p> <p>Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner 24555050 Ext 510 Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali 25644660 Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel 25646478 Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah 25311996 Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory 25731988 Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary 22620166 Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz 25651426</p> <p>General Practitioners</p> <p>Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi 24555050 Ext 123 Dr. Yousef Al-Omar 24719312 Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem 23926920 Dr. Kathem Maarafi 25730465 Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah 25655528 Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi 24577781 Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Refae 25333501</p> <p>Urologists</p> <p>Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy 22641534 Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul 22639955 Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi 22616660 Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C) 25313120 Dr. Leons Joseph 66703427</p>	<p>Plastic Surgeons</p> <p>Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272 Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari 22617700 Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60</p> <p>Family Doctor</p> <p>Dr. Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581</p> <p>Psychiatrists</p> <p>Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047 Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0</p> <p>Gynaecologists & Obstetricians</p> <p>Dr. Adrian arbe 23729596/23729581 Dr. Verginia s. Marin 2572-6666 ext 8321 Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan 22655539 Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami 25343406 Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272 Dr. Salem soso 22618787</p> <p>General Surgeons</p> <p>Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044 Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148</p> <p>Internists, Chest & Heart</p> <p>Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939 Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300 Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisen 25728004 Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515 Dr. Mobarak Aldoub 24726446 Dr. Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3</p>	<p>Paediatricians</p> <p>Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898 Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300 Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444 Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099 Dr. Snaa Maarouf 25713514 Dr. Pradip Gujare 23713100 Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282</p> <p>Dermatology</p> <p>Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955</p> <p>Dentists</p> <p>Dr. Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581 Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2 Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226 Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer 22561444 Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan 22619557 Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash 22525888 Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisen 25653755 Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111</p> <p>Neurologists</p> <p>Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324 Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875</p> <p>Gastrologists</p> <p>Dr. Sami Aman 22636464 Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030 Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali 22633135</p>	<p>Endocrinologist</p> <p>Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330 Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888 Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924</p> <p>Physiotherapists & VD</p> <p>Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291 Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees 22666288</p> <p>Rheumatologists:</p> <p>Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060 Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290</p> <p>Internist, Chest & Heart</p> <p>DR. Mohammed Akkad 24555050 Ext 210 Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667</p> <p>Consultant Cardiologist</p> <p>Dr. Farida Al-Habib 2611555-2622555 MD, PH.D, FACC Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123</p>
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Ronnie took his now-wife Sally to Sir Paul McCartney's wedding

The Rolling Stones rocker became friends with the 38-year-old theatre producer in 2003, but their relationship didn't turn romantic until sometime later, and the brunette beauty began to think differently about her pal when she accompanied him to the Beatles legend's nuptials with Nancy Shevell in 2011. Sally recalled: "There was this lovely family atmosphere and Ronnie and I had a real laugh. We danced and it was the first time I remember thinking of him in a completely different way." A few weeks later, the 69-year-old rocker wrote a letter to Sally about how deeply he felt for her, and on the advice of a friend, she agreed to give things a go and the pair will celebrate their fourth wedding anniversary next week. And Sally - who has six-month-old twins Alice and Gracie with Ronnie - insists the 30-year age gap between them has never been a prob-

lem. She said: "You know what, I find it rude when people talk unkindly about it... Yes, he is older and I am younger, but I don't think about age when I think of Ronnie. He's always had this unbelievably positive, youthful energy about him, which I absolutely love." I also think there is a lot to be said for marrying an older man. He knows who he is, he knows what he wants. He makes me happy, we laugh and he's a great dad. He's so relaxed and incredibly creative." The 'Brown Sugar' rocker is a hands-on dad who is happy to change nappies and get up with the babies during the night. Sally laughed: "He says the babies keep his hours, so he's really happy to be up in the night with them."

CEELO GREEN HAS REASSURED FANS HE IS ALIVE AND WELL

Shocking surveillance footage appeared online on Saturday of the former 'Voice' coach taking a call in the recording studio before his device blew up, knocking him off his chair and onto the floor, sparking concern from fans. However, the 'Crazy' hitmaker has now admitted all was not as it seemed and he is "upset" that his supporters have been "emotionally disturbed" by footage for his new musical project. He said in a Facebook Live broadcast: "Hey y'all, listen. I just want to let everybody know that I am alive and I am well and I'm OK. "Truthfully, I'm really upset that anybody had to be emotionally disturbed by what they saw today. "Actually what you saw today was a clip from a smaller video that we were shooting for a new project that I'm doing called Gnarly Davidson. It's supposed to set up and introduce the new character identity. "I'm still going to release the music, but first and foremost to everybody that love me and care about me, I just wanted to let you know that I'm OK... I just want to thank everybody for their love and support and concern." Among those who had been left upset by the 42-year-old star's apparent accident was 'Post To Be' hit maker Omarion. He had tweeted: "@CeeloGreen Sooo manyyyy prayers & light to you brother!!!! I [pray] your hearing is ok!!! (sic)"



Blac Chyna and Rob Kardashian split



The 28-year-old make-up artist has confirmed she is "done" with the reclusive sock designer, just a month after the birth of their daughter Dream, and accused him of "verbally abusing" her on a regular basis. Chyna hit out after her Instagram page was hacked and screenshots supposedly of a conversation between her and her lawyer about trade marking her future married name of Angela Renee Kardashian, and her direct messages with people including Young Thug, Jaden Smith and her friend Treasure, to whom the 'Rob & Chyna' star seemingly told she was giving her partner a year to get himself together or she'd leave, and branding him "lazy, fat, insecure". She then opened a new social media account and wrote: "I'M DONE. This entire year I have done nothing but help Rob! It's so SAD & PATHETIC how low he'd stoop to cover up HIS PERSONAL ISSUES! I have done nothing but help & loved him from the beginning! It's Chy here I got my own!!! I was doing swell before I got with him! I got him out of Khloe's house, helped him lose all that weight for him to do nothing & gain it all back! Rob asked for all of this! Rob begged me to have Dream! He stressed me out my ENTIRE PREGNANCY!!! Accusing me of cheating, going crazy on me with massive text blast daily! being an absolute lunatic & then cover it up with gifts! I was verbally abused every other day. I was still there with nothing but high hopes for us! I had to beg him to cut his hair, To take his braces off, and To get more into his businesses! I shouldn't have to tell any grown man! Chyna - who also has four-year-old son King Cairo with ex-boyfriend Tyga - seemingly accused Rob of leaking her messages, claiming he did so because he "couldn't find anything" to be mad about, and went on to slam the 29-year-old star for not seeing their daughter since she left. She continued: "Not to mention Just brought him a brand new 2016 Range Rover! I PUT MY PRIDE ASIDE & I GAVE UP MY HOUSE TO MOVE INTO KYLIE'S HOUSE WITH HIM TO BE WITH A MAN!! We weren't together in that house 2 whole weeks before he starting calling me all types of bitches & hoes! AND I NEVER NOT ONCE CHEATED ON ROB! EVER!"

Kourtney Kardashian threw a 'Fast and the Furious' themed birthday party



The 37-year-old beauty staged a "low-key" bash for Mason, who turned seven on December 14, and Reign, who was two on the same day, and her Los Angeles home following a week of celebrations for the pair. Kourtney - who also has four-year-old daughter Penelope with Scott Disick - donned casual attire for the party, teaming her skinny jeans with sneakers, an oversized denim jacket and a red, white and blue bandana around her head. Both the young and adult guests enjoyed the fun, with entertainment including a huge car-shaped bouncy castle, and a tricycle race track. A giant

balloon display in the garden spelled out 'The Fast and the Furious'. Earlier in the week, the birthday boys enjoyed a family trip to Disneyland with their parents and grandmother Kris Jenner. And Kourtney also penned a touching tribute to the pair. Sharing a photo of Mason and Reign on Instagram, she wrote: "My twin boys born five years apart. Luckiest mommy in the world. Happy birthday to them. (sic)" On her app, she added: "How crazy is it that I have two boys born on the same exact day? It is truly so special and meant to be. They changed my heart forever. Happy birthday to the coolest brothers I know!!!"

Michael Sheen is taking a step back from his career

The 'Masters of Sex' star has lived in Los Angeles for the last 14 years, but is now planning to return to his native Wales to be a full-time activist and has confirmed he currently has no TV or movie projects in the pipeline. He told The Times newspaper: "It will be a big change for how people relate to me. Once I'm in, I'm fully in, and this is big. As soon as you start to be effective, then people try to crush you, because it's dangerous." The 47-year-old actor - who is in a relationship with comic Sarah Silverman - claimed the recent US presidential election, which will see Donald Trump take office in the coming months, spurred him on to take action. He added: "In the same way as the Nazis had to be stopped in Germany in the Thirties, this thing that is on the rise has to be stopped. "It's not going to look like this in ten years' time. Everything has shifted. The dice are being rolled again." Following the publication of



the interview, Michael has insisted he is not quitting acting entirely, but is taking a break as he wants to focus on his increased interest in community issues "back at home". He said: "I DID NOT declare that I'm 'quitting acting and leaving Hollywood' to go into politics."

Jamie Oliver thinks his daughters are better parents than he is



The 41-year-old chef has kids Poppy, 14, Daisy, 13, Petal, seven, Buddy, six, and River, four months, with wife Jools and is always impressed with how well the teenagers care for the younger members of the family. He said: "Even with Buddy, Poppy and Daisy were incredible adult figures. Sometimes I think they're better parents than I am." Poppy and Daisy were present at their youngest brother's birth and Poppy even cut River's umbilical cord, with Jamie catching the "magic" moment on camera. He said: "Often mums have to work hard for teenage girls and I just thought it was an amazing moment to respect your mum for being pretty damn incredible. "It was just magic and I got it on camera as well." The culinary expert admits he is learning slowly about being a father to teenagers, as it doesn't come as naturally to him as parenting younger kids. He told Woman magazine: "I wouldn't say I'm a natural parent of teenagers, but I am picking it up. "I'm definitely good at the toddler bit and the baby bit, but you know, you're just tryin to duck and drive and learn what they need and what they do and don't like from parents. "I think Jools and I are quite normal and we want the kids to be kind and nice people. "She's a great mum and I try to do the bit that dads do too, which is a hard one to navigate, but they like me around. "Normally celeb kids can be a little bit up and down so I'm trying to keep them grounded and normal and give them experiences that make them nice people."

Margot Robbie loves staying in hostels

The 'Suicide Squad' actress has always enjoyed travelling but she admits she isn't sure her fame means she can still explore anonymously and stay in budget accommodation. She told heat magazine: "I don't know [if I can still stay in hostels anonymously],



maybe not. But travelling is important to me and I love immersing myself in different cultures. "The big advantage in staying in hostels is that you get to meet so many people. I like being able to connect to people - it really enriches my way of appreciating the world." And Margot previously revealed her boyfriend Tom Ackerley managed to change her opinion on relationships. She said: "[Before we met] I was the ultimate single gal. The idea of relationships made me want to vomit. And then this crept up on me. "We were friends for so long. I was always in love with him, but I thought, 'Oh, he would never love me back. Don't make it weird, Margot. Don't be stupid and tell him that you like him.' And then it happened, and I was like, Of course we're together. This makes so much sense, the way nothing has ever made sense before."



Lamar Odom is 'sad' his marriage to Khloe is over

The 32-year-old reality star filed for divorce from the retired basketball player in 2013, and their split was finally legalized on Saturday after a judge approved their documents last week. Despite having been separated from the 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star for three years, Lamar is reportedly "emotional" about the end of their relationship, and "knows he blew it" with the beauty. A source said: "Lamar takes things really hard, whether it is something serious or something very little and minuscule. "So when it comes to his divorce being finalized he is thinking of all the good times, all the help Khloe gave him when he was in the hospital, and knows he blew it. "He had a great girl and he will eventually move on, but it

is a sad time for Lamar because he knows he let the right girl get away. He is very emotional about it ending officially." And the 35-year-old sports star is reportedly "in shock" at the official end of their divorce. A second source told HollywoodLife.com: "He's in shock that their divorce is final because he knows this is all his doing. "Khloe loved him hard, terribly hard and Lamar knows in his soul that he may never find another woman like her again and that's a real reality gut check." Meanwhile, it was previously claimed that Lamar is "completely out" of Khloe's life but she still cares deeply for him. A source said: "Lamar is out of her life completely. No animosity there - she still cares about him, she still wants him to be safe, but it's over."



HILARY DUFF thinks she was too young when she got married

The 29-year-old actress married 36-year-old retired hockey player Mike Comrie - with whom she shares four-year-old son Luca - when she was just 22, and whilst she "wouldn't change" her position, she doesn't believe she was "mature enough" to deal with marriage at such a young age. Appearing on US talk show 'The Talk' on Friday, the 'Younger' actress explained: "I was 22 when I got married. I'm now divorced, I have a 4-year-old - I wouldn't change any of it for the world. "I had so much, so young and a full time job. I felt really ready to get married. However, I don't think we were mature enough to stick it out." The former 'Lizzie McGuire' star - who has reportedly split from her personal trainer beau Jason Walsh - previously claimed she doesn't "feel the need" to get married for a second time. She said: "I don't feel the need to get married again. As

much as I was ready and excited, you're like, 'Oh, next step. We get married.' That is the traditional person that I'm talking about that's inside of me or however I was raised. "I don't feel the need. I got to have the experience and it was awesome. I guess if it mattered to someone else that much, I would consider it." Meanwhile, the blonde beauty said she came under "so much scrutiny" when she gave birth to her first child at 24 years old and was made to feel "useless" for falling pregnant at an early age. She said: "I feel like I was judged for having a baby too soon, and getting married too soon and now, I'm pigeonholed for being a 'mom'. "Lots of women in the industry that don't have a child yet are judged. "We are the most in demand and the most desirable, but the most judged and the hardest on one another. It's so much scrutiny."

Gloria Loring is left a 'profoundly sad wound' after the death of her ex-husband Alan Thicke

The 'Growing Pains' star was 69 years old when he passed away from a heart attack on Tuesday, and the 70-year-old singer, who was married to the star for 13 years from 1970-1983, is struggling to come to terms with his passing. Gloria said: "It's deep and it's a profoundly sad wound to our family. "Anytime you lose one of the major father-mother figures in a family, it's very hard. And Alan was definitely a big presence in our family. If he entered the room, the party started. He just had a great sense of humour and a wonderful energy. We all loved him." The pair - who share two children, Brennan, 42, and Robin, 39 - remained close



despite their divorce, and even met up at Robin's Thanksgiving party last month. Recalling the meeting, Gloria said: "He was entertaining the people. "He was talking and visiting and quipping and throwing the funny lines around and just being the host. He was always the host. When we were married, I was in the kitchen and he was the host. "And he had a very funny line. In fact, I told him, I said, 'I swear, I stayed married [to you] a lot longer than I would have because you were so darn funny.' And at one point, he said to somebody, 'No, Gloria and I have a great marriage. It's a 50/50 marriage. She cleans and I dirty.'"

ASHTON KUTCHER AND MILA KUNIS ARE 'NOT DONE' EXPANDING THEIR FAMILY

The 38-year-old actor and his actress wife, 33, may have only welcomed their second child Dimitri into the world in November - who is the younger brother of their two-year-old daughter Wyatt - but the pair are reportedly already thinking about baby number three. A source claimed to HollywoodLife.com: "Ashton and Mila are not done in the baby making department, and she is eager to start again sooner than Ashton might be ready himself. "They want a big family, and she feels the sooner the better. As much as she likes to act, she is okay with doing voiceover work to substitute the time to have even more family. "So don't be surprised when she gets pregnant again." The news of a possible third child for the couple - who married in 2015 - may not come as much of a surprise, as the 'Black Swan' actress recently claimed both herself and the 'Jobs'



actor "knew" their family wasn't "complete" when Wyatt was born. She said: "I've always said this; I think you know when your family is complete. "After we had Wyatt, the second that I gave birth, I was like, 'I know that we need to have another baby. We both knew it, we just felt it. And so I always say after the second one, we'll know if we need to have another one. "I really do believe you know when your family is complete." And if the couple do decide to go for baby number three, they might have difficulty coming up with a name, as Ashton recently revealed he wanted to name their son Hawkeye after Benjamin 'Hawkeye' Pierce, a character who appeared on 1970s television show 'M*A*S*H'. He said: "There was a rallying cry from a collective that believed in the name Hawkeye. "A kid named Hawkeye, it could be 'M*A*S*H'-y, like he could be a doctor."

Blac Chyna shares adorable video of her two children bonding



The 28-year-old model has taken to Snapchat to share a heartwarming video of her four-year-old son King Cairo - whom she shares with ex-boyfriend and rapper Tyga - showering his one-month-old sister Dream Renee Kardashian, whose father is Rob Kardashian, with love. The young boy tells is mother in the clip posted on Saturday (17.12.16): "I wanna kiss my baby!" King Cairo then proceeded to plant two loving kisses on Dream's face. He then said: "She's smiling!" The sweet video comes after the 'Rob & Chyna' star recently revealed she had to hide her first pregnancy, and is happy she can now share snaps of her daughter with the world on her social media accounts. She said: "With my first pregnancy, I didn't do a maternity shoot, I didn't have a baby shower. "Having to hide your pregnancy is just not a good feeling. So now, with this baby, it's really important everybody that supported me share this moment." Meanwhile, Chyna and her fiancé Rob, 29, have recently moved into the old house of Rob's half sister Kylie Jenner - who is now dating Tyga. A source said previously: "Rob wants to live with Chyna and spend every day with Dream. He's making a big effort to get along with Chyna. She seems very happy with him. They are getting along great and enjoying parenting together."



Lamar Odom's ex-girlfriend Liza Morales shares her support

The 37-year-old retired professional basketball player - who recently divorced from his former wife Khloé Kardashian - checked himself into a rehabilitation centre near San Diego, California, earlier this week, and his former partner has taken to Instagram to post a message of support. Posting a picture of the note she had typed up, Liza - who shares children Destiny, 18, and Lamar Jr., 14 with Lamar - wrote: "Instead of directly responding to each of the media outlets that have sent emails and dm's, let me express how proud we are of Lamar for taking the necessary steps in his life's journey. "This is a private situation that has become public for observation, speculation and judgment. This may be media fodder for some, but Lamar is a father, kin and a friend. Anyone that has dealt (or is dealing) with the same situation with a loved one or friend knows it's one day at a time. In the meantime, Destiny, Lamar Jr. and I send light and positivity to their dad and hope you can do the same. (sic)" The news of support comes after it was recently reported that the star had entered rehab in order to avoid temptation from drink and drugs on the 10th birthday of his third child Jayden - also born to Liza - who died aged six months from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). According to TMZ.com, Lamar "checked himself into rehab out of fear he'd go on a major bender as his deceased son's birthday approached". Lamar's decision to enter rehab also comes a year after he was hospitalized after a drink and drug binge at a Nevada brothel. A source said of his rehabilitation: "He went to continue making sure he stays sober and on the right path. It was something he chose to do. He did it for his kids and also wanted to feel 100 percent again. He did not relapse, but felt like he wanted to get away and start fresh for the New Year."



Artists perform during the Festival of Light in the main streets of San Jose — AFP photos



What's it like to win Spain's bountiful Christmas lottery?



Workers of the Eiffel Tower stand next a banner reading "Employees of the Eiffel tower on strike" on the fourth day of the strike, in Paris. — AP

Eiffel Tower reopens after a close down of five days

The Eiffel Tower has reopened to the public after a closedown of five consecutive days due to workers' strike. The company that manages the tower, SETE, said in a written statement it reached an agreement with workers unions and the tower reopened at midday yesterday. The CGT and FO unions had called for a strike last week

because they wanted workers to be included in the decision-making process and more funds to be directed to the site's maintenance. "The large number of visitors in Paris for the holiday season will be able to visit the Eiffel Tower and discover its fabulous view over Paris," the company said in a written statement — AP

Two years ago, a district in Madrid got lucky in Spain's hugely popular Christmas lottery, with people working or living there winning prizes of between 120,000 and 3.0 million Euros. As Spaniards gear up for the next windfall from the world's richest lottery known as el "Gordo", or the "Fat One", AFP asked the 2014 winners in the Almagro area—and people who know them—how their lives had changed. The answer? Some retired early, others opened a new business and one football betting addict lost all his money. But, by and large, many kept going steadily on in the same job. Their profiles vary widely, from 32 workers at Madrid's Wax Museum — 80 percent of whom continue to work there—to employees of the exclusive Genova Financial Club, shopkeepers, insurance brokers and nuns.

People like Arturo Aguirre, owner of the Kalko stationery store, who won 320,000 Euros (\$335,000) two years ago on December 22, the day each year when the lottery is drawn. Unlike other big lotteries that generate just a few big winners, Spain's Christmas lottery aims to share the wealth, with thousands of numbers getting a prize. "On the Wednesday I signed for a bank loan (to buy the store), on the Thursday the lottery ticket seller gave me a ticket as a gift, and on the Monday I won," Aguirre told AFP. The father of two teenage boys said winning the money had had a hugely soothing effect, "as if they operated on the nerves."

A so happy birth

The man behind this lucky turn of events was Lino Cuervo, the local lottery ticket seller whose shop is just a few meters away from the stationery store. That year, he became Father Christmas, earning his customers 416 million Euros in winning tickets out of a nationwide total of 2.2 billion Euros.

He and his family also profited from winning tickets, prompting such an outburst of merriment and partying that his daughter went into labor and gave birth the next day.

The Christmas lottery has been held uninterrupted in Spain since 1812, even during the 1936-39 civil war when each side held its own



People queue to buy Christmas lottery outside the popular lottery outlet 'Dona Manolita' in central Madrid. — AFP Photos

draw during the conflict. It has become a popular Christmas tradition in Spain with friends, colleagues and bar regulars banding together to buy tickets.

'Postpones bankruptcy'

The decision of many winners to continue with their normal lives is not surprising. A 2005 study by Sweden's University of Gothenburg found that 62 percent of those who won the lottery in that country had continued to work. Another study published in 2010 by three US researchers analyzed the evolution of close to 35,000 lottery winners in Florida between 1993 and 2002. They found that the windfall did not solve their money problems in the long term.

"The results indicate that giving \$50,000 to \$150,000 to people only postpones bankruptcy," the study said. "Specifically, while these recipients are 50 percent less likely than small winners to file for bankruptcy immediately after winning, they are more likely to file for bankruptcy three to five years after winning," it added. Javier Gaite,

a financial adviser specialized in income management, said the best option was to save money, pay off any existing debt and "invest carefully".

Many of those interviewed by AFP did just that, including some of the 25 employees of the El Mentidero de la Villa restaurant. Then chef Jose Ynglada won big — 3.5 million Euros. "I still haven't touched it. It's in my daughters' fund, in the bank," said Ynglada, who now works in another restaurant and has no intention of quitting as chef. It's the same story-albeit with only around 100,000 Euros—for Daniel Drouet, an Ecuadorian waiter at El Mentidero de la Villa.

He has placed his winnings in a fund at an international bank, with a view of potentially opening his own business later. "I don't want to hurry, I want to think about it and see," he said. One man who did quit his job was head chef Daniel Domingo. Instead, he opened a shop selling-guess what? Lottery tickets. The business was financed along with his wife and another colleague using their combined winnings of 360,000 Euros. — AFP



Exotic fish and a shark are seen swimming as a man dressed as Santa Claus dives to feed them in the aquarium of Paris. — AFP Photos

Santa Divers



South Korean divers wearing Santa Claus dresses perform amongst fish in a tank during a Christmas event at the Coex Aquarium in Seoul. — AFP Photos

Lifestyle

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Darryl Hendricks moves into position on a breakwater to photograph sea smoke rising off the waters of Casco Bay, in South Portland, Maine. — AP

RECOVERING FROM WAR, MOZAMBICAN NATIONAL PARK FACES CONFLICT

QUEEN'S new portrait features Prince Charles as guest star



This photograph taken by Nick Knight is a portrait of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles, taken in the White Drawing Room at Windsor Castle, England, prior to the final night of the Queen's 90th birthday. — AP

One is not amused. But the other one is. Queen Elizabeth II's photographic portrait unveiled Sunday features a determined look ahead and perhaps the faintest whisper of a Mona Lisa smile. The heir to her throne, Prince Charles, stands beside his seated mother, one hand propped in the pocket of his black dinner jacket, the other behind her back. Charles' downward gaze of smiling affection competes for attention with the queen's serious, forward focus.

Fashion photographer Nick Knight shot the image in May inside Windsor Castle before evening celebrations at the Royal Windsor Horse Show. The queen wore a sea green and dove gray brocade dress by Angela Kelly. Knight said he sought "to create a modern portrait that showed warmth and humanity as well as strength and tradition." — AP

A fragment of a bullet-pocked wall in this Mozambique wildlife reserve is a reminder of a civil war that ended in 1992. Today, an ambitious revival of Gorongosa National Park is underway, but trouble looms again from the conflict's old foes. One of Africa's richest ecosystems, Gorongosa historically has been a stronghold of the country's main opposition group, whose rivalry with the ruling party has spiraled into ambushes, tit-for-tat assassinations and other attacks in the last few years. The two sides have been negotiating, and a return to war is unlikely. But the Gorongosa Restoration Project, which is pushing ahead with a 2017 budget of more than \$8 million, is treading a delicate line between adversaries.

Some funds go to aid for poor communities in contested areas around the park. As in other parts of Africa, a well-funded agenda is vulnerable to political unrest beyond its control. "We really are neutral," said Greg Carr, an American philanthropist who leads the Gorongosa non-profit group and has telephone numbers for leaders of both factions. Many of the 500 people working for the wildlife park back Renamo, the opposition, and some support Frelimo, the ruling party, though managers discourage any sensitive talk on the job.

One recent morning, as insects trilled in the heat, rangers in uniform saluted Rui Branco, the park's head of law enforcement, before departing on a patrol to thwart poachers who kill animals for their meat. "We've had opportunism. You get poachers trying to pretend they're someone, or one of the sides, and they hope they'll get let go because of that," Branco said. "In the beginning, it worked for them. The scouts would be afraid. And then we realized what was going on." Government forces and Renamo fighters stay out of most of the unfenced park. The rival groups "know who we are, and they respect what we do," Branco said.

The civil war that started in 1977 killed up to 1 million people. Frelimo was a Marxist guerrilla movement when it took power, and Renamo rebels were backed by white-minority rulers in what was then Rhodesia, and in apartheid South Africa. After post-war election losses, Renamo (the Portuguese acronym for Mozambican National Resistance) now wants more regional autonomy from Frelimo (Mozambique Liberation Front), a process that could require constitutional change. European Union mediator Mario Raffaelli traveled to Gorongosa in October to try to meet Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama,

who cancelled after alleging government troops launched an operation.

To save our flora and fauna

Undeterred, the Gorongosa Restoration Project is extending a joint management plan with Mozambique for another 25 years. It believes it can build on gains that include the partial recovery of lions, elephants and other wildlife populations that were slaughtered for food during the war. Carr, who signed a Gorongosa management deal with Mozambique in 2008 after a government invitation, has support from the United States Agency for International Development, or USAID, at \$2 million a year, and the Global Environment Facility, with a \$7.5 million grant managed by the United Nations Development Program.

In a letter to Gorongosa warden Mateus Mutemba, USAID praised the park for progress "while surrounded by armed conflict." A recent ceremony at Gorongosa could signal an expansion of the 4,067-square-kilometer (1,570-square-mile) park at a time when many African wildlife habitats are shrinking because of human encroachment. Entrepoteo, a Portuguese business group that runs an adjacent hunting concession, said it wants Mozambique's government to add that land to the park,

creating tourism opportunities and a wildlife corridor to the Zambezi River.

Antelope grazed in the distance during the signing event at dusk on a Gorongosa plain. Guests included Maria Amélia Paiva, the ambassador of Portugal, Mozambique's colonial ruler until 1975. "We all die ..." sang Pedro Muagura, the park's director of conservation. A chorus mostly composed of rangers and students studying in the park finished the line: "... to save our flora and fauna." It was festive, but some park officials worried that the news might be manipulated for political gain. One theory is that Renamo could allege that plans to expand the national park are a government effort to increase influence in the area.

Another worry is Mount Gorongosa, whose incorporation into the park in 2010 was praised by conservationists and opened the way to reforestation and coffee-growing projects. However, the area has been a virtual no-go zone amid reported incursions by the military. Scientists stopped working on Mount Gorongosa because of the "potential danger," said Piotr Naskrecki, an entomologist who is helping to develop a research laboratory in the park. Gorongosa's development will proceed, insisted Mutemba, the warden. "We are optimists," he said. "We're not waiting." — AP

An aerial view shows part of Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique, which is one of Africa's richest ecosystems, with forests, grassland, a lake and a mountain. — AP

